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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

WHAT TO BUY... AND HOW TO USE IT

April 2006 Issue No. 108 £4.20 (UK)

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Slow Down

Using slow shutter speeds for fantastic creative effects

THE BIG TEST

Olympus E330

World's first DSLR with full live preview!

Speed Up

How to soup up your PC for ultra fast Photoshop

Panasonic Lumix FZ7

Latest model from the bridge camera masters

THE GROUP TEST

Six of the best sub £500 LCD Monitors for digital photographers

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PLUS: Over 200 cameras and accessories in our 12 page Buying Guide

recycle

AOL Keyword: What Digital Camera

04

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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

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WELCOME...

...to the April edition of What Digital Camera, and what an issue we have for you this month.

Jamie Harrison and I have just returned from the annual PMA show in Orlando where we saw some great new cameras that are anything but Mickey Mouse. You can read about the photo industry's spring collection in our extended news coverage.

Fans of innovation will enjoy our big test, of the new Olympus E-330. It's the first DSLR with a full and proper live view, and its tilt-and-flip LCD will make it very popular with photojournalists, nature photographers and a whole host of others who like low and high-level shooting.

With lots of other camera and accessory tests, plus loads of techniques, tutorials and readers' pictures, there's something for everyone here.

See you next month.

Nigel Atherton
nigel_atherton@ipcmedia.com

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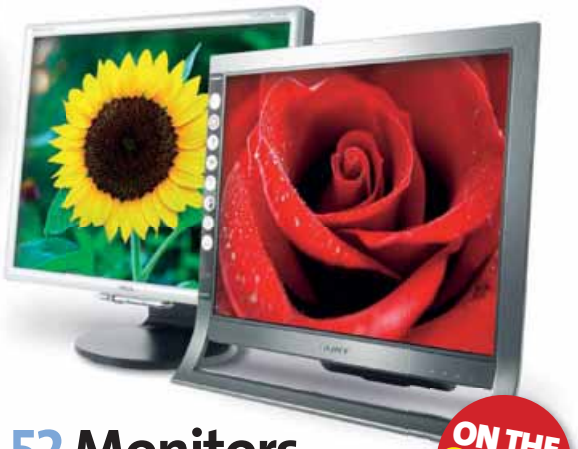
22 Olympus E-330 *The Big Test*

COVER FEATURE The E-330 is the latest in Olympus's FourThirds system and boasts more than a couple of unique features



52 Monitors sub £600 *Group Test*

COVER FEATURE Ian Burley tests six LCD flat panel displays. Perhaps it's time to retire that big and bulky CRT display...

What to *Buy*

camera *tests*

22 Olympus *E-330*
The latest in Olympus's FourThirds system

28 Panasonic *FZ7*
Six-meg camera with 12x lens

31 Leica *D-Lux 2*
8MP camera, almost identical to the Panasonic Lumix L1

32 Sony *T9*
6MP, 3x zoom camera

35 Canon *Wireless*
Canon's Digital IXUS Wireless

37 Sony *S600*
Boasts an impressive ISO range

39 Olympus *Mju700*
Stylish, 7MP and weatherproof

40 Casio *S600*

40 Fuji *Z2*

accessory *tests*

45 Alien Skin *Exposure*
Joël Lacey finds his dreams of film come true with this image editor

46 Corel *Draw X3*
The new Graphics Suite with photo-editing abilities

48 Picto Color *iCorrect EditLab Pro 5*
A quick and easy image-correction system

49 Polarising filters *Roundup*
Which comes out on top?

46 **Wacom** Graphire 4 Studio XL
47 **XS Drive** MP3
48 **Photoshop** Elements 4 for Mac
48 **Shozu**
50 **Books** The Photographer's Guide to Landscapes/The Photographer's Guide to Light
• An Inner Silence – The Portraits of Henri Cartier-Bresson
• The Focal Easy Guide to Photoshop CS2
• 500 More Digital Photography Hints...

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ON THE COVER

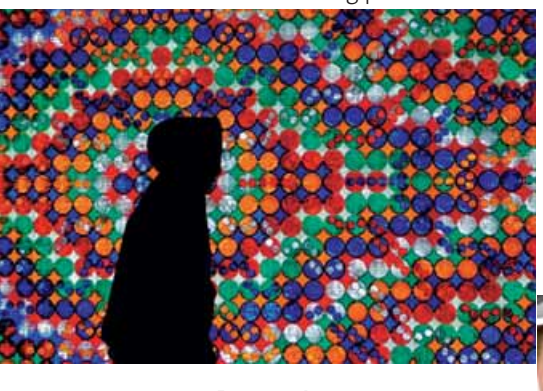
70 Using Slow *Shutter Speeds*

COVER FEATURE John Freeman shows you how you can use shutter speeds and panning techniques creatively

How to *Use it*

WDC *techniques*

16 Best Shot *Selector*
Readers' stunning pictures



84 Evening *Class*
Photoshop guru Martin Evening passes his verdict on your photos

86 Healing *Brush*
Learn how to use one of the most powerful retouching tools

88 Photoshop *Tutorial*
Another collection of tips on how to remove wrinkles and banish blemishes

70 Take *That!*
WDC editor Nigel Atherton shows how to create a panorama

74 Dream *Machine*
Get to grips with the hardware components of your system

78 Help *File*
A problem shared is a problem solved... by the WDC team

93 Photoshop *Challenge*
This month, the experts at WDC transform an image of a skateboarder

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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA on sale from 24th March 2006
April 2006 Issue No. 108

At a *glance...*

06 Monitor News What's new this month
15 Next Month See what's coming soon
16 Reader Gallery Great photos fom readers
22 Olympus E-330 Big test
28 Panasonic FZ7 Review
31 Leica D-Lux 2 Review
32 Sony Cyber-shot T9 Review
35 Canon IXUS Wireless Review
37 Sony Cyber-shot S600 Review
39 Olympus Mju 700 Review
40 Casio EX-S600 Review
40 Fujifilm Z2 Review
44 Subscription Special offer
45 Exposure Review
46 Corel Draw X3 Review
46 Wacom Graphire 4 Studio XL Review
47 XS Drive MP3 Review
48 iCorrect Edit Lab Pro 5 Review
48 Elements 4 for Mac Review
48 Shozu Review
49 Polarising filters Round Up
50 Book reviews Our pick of the latest books
52 LCD Monitors Group Test
60 Letters Your views
63 Five-minute Technique
64 John Freeman Slow shutter speeds
70 Take That! How to create a panorama
74 Photoshop Build your Dream Machine
78 Help File WDC answers your queries
84 Evening Class Your images assessed
86 Tools of the Trade The Healing brush
88 Photoshop Tutorial Retouching revisited
93 Photoshop Challenge Three techniques
96 Home Study Course
99 Reprints Order WDC test reprints here
131 Buyer's Guide Cameras
136 Word on the Street Hot deals from dealers
138 Buyer's Guide Software, lenses, flash
140 Buyer's Guide Scanners, printers, paper
146 And Finally... What's on the WDC web

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Inserts Innovator 020 7261 7710
Repro by Camden Town Typesetters Ltd (020 8523 6700)
Printed by Benham Goodhead Ltd
Covers printed by B.R. Hubbard Ltd
Distributed by Marketforce, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

What Digital Camera™ is a Focus Network title, published by IPC Country & Leisure Media, part of IPC Media Ltd, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Submissions are welcomed, but should be in digital format to the address above or by email to wdc@ipcmedia.com
IPCMedia reserves the right to use any submissions sent to What Digital Camera in any format or medium, including electronic.
SUBSCRIPTIONS One year rates (12 issues): UK £40.80; Europe £47.50; North America £53.00; Central & South America, Middle East, Far East, Australia, Africa & Asia £58.00 (all airmail).
Check the subs page on our website *www.whatdigitalcamera.com* for our latest offers. Enquiries: email ipcsubs@qss-uk.com or telephone +44 (0)1444 475675
BACK ISSUES Each £4.50 from John Denton Services, Unit 1, A1 Parkway, South Gate Way, Orton South Gate, Peterborough PE2 6YN. Tel: 01733 370800

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ISSN No. 1366-5324

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CAMERA NEWS

WDC at PMA 2006

It's a tough job... but somebody has got to do it

The *What Digital Camera* team flew off to Orlando, Florida, to cover the PMA trade show – the annual launch pad for a host of new cameras and equipment from all the major, and not-so-major companies.

Held over four days, the show is second in size only to the bi-annual Photokina, next held in Cologne in September. *WDC* visited all the major manufacturers and returned home with bagfuls of press releases and CDs. In between times, we still managed to post daily news for the website and post a daily podcast from the show.

Canon 30D Adds Functions

Canon has upgraded its popular DSLR, the EOS 20D, with the EOS 30D. The EOS 30D retains the 8.2MP APS-C CMOS sensor of its predecessor. Composed of 230,000 pixels, the LCD screen has increased in size to 2.5in and provides a 170° wide viewing angle.

In response to feedback from users of the 20D, the 30D includes 3.5% area spot metering and the shutter cycle lag durability has been extended to 100,000. Fast performance and optimum picture quality is promised from Canon's DIGIC II processor.

Canon has included a series of Picture Style presets. Previously seen in the EOS 5D and EOS ID Mark II N, each Picture Style preset is similar to different film type or scene mode and, when selected, provides a colour response suitable to the subject – such as Landscape, Portrait or Neutral.

Canon's newly designed IXUS flagship, the **IXUS 800**, includes an optical Image Stabiliser (OIS) to reduce the blur effect caused by camera shake.

Canon has also introduced the **IXUS 60** and **IXUS 65**. The company has extended the sensitivity range to ISO 800, and the new High ISO Auto automatically selects optimum shooting settings, including high ISO and fast shutter speeds.

The **S3 IS** marks the third generation of Canon's mega-zooming bridge camera and includes Canon's optical Image Stabiliser. This reduces the effect of blur caused by camera shake, enabling the use of shutter speeds three times slower than conventional cameras. Alongside Manual, Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority modes, the S3 IS includes 0cm Super Macro mode and High Sensitivity range.

Canon has also boosted its PowerShot range with the **A700**, **A540**, **A530** and **A430**. All of these new models feature multiple scene modes, along with manual exposure modes, 30fps VGA movies and 60fps QVGA movies. Visit **www.canon.co.uk**

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Fujifilm *Is Boosted*

Featuring a 6MP sixth-generation Super CCD, the Fujifilm F30 Zoom is the world's first to reach ISO 3200 at maximum image size. The Super CCD and Real Photo Processor work together to produce pictures with minimal noise and reduced blurring, in low-light conditions.

The 'intelligent flash' system uses the camera's high sensitivity levels to produce images that are naturally lit, without the need to use flash. Fujifilm claims that the battery can capture 500 pictures from one charge. The camera boasts a 1.4sec start-up, 0.01sec shutter lag and 15 scene modes.

Fujifilm also displayed the **Finepix V10**, a 5.1MP model with a 3.4x optical zoom equivalent to 38-130mm. It also features Real Photo Technology to give sensitivity of ISO 64-1600. The 3in LCD has 230,000 pixels and includes a zoom display for instant confirmation of focus and image details. There are also four retro arcade-style games, which can be customised using your photos. The camera comes with a tutorial xD card, which demonstrates the camera's functions when inserted in the card slot. Natural Light and Flash mode captures two images in succession, one with and without flash, to allow users to decide on the best image.

The **FinePix F650 Zoom** includes a 3in LCD. It has 10 scene modes, aperture and shutter priority modes, 3cm Super Macro Mode and PictBridge compatibility.

Fujifilm's new entry-level compact, the **A600 Zoom**, is its first in the 'A' series to incorporate the company's Super CCD. Four scene modes are found on A600, along with movie mode and a 2.4in LCD.

See **www.fujifilm.co.uk**

Kodak *Quartet*

Heading Kodak's four new releases is the Z612, which includes a 12x optical Schneider-Kreuznach lens and image stabilisation.

The 6MP camera has a 2.5in LCD and captures 30fps movies utilising MPEG-4 compression. It offers manual, aperture-priority and shutter-priority modes, plus 16 scene modes.

Kodak's Colour Science chip promises sharp images, accurate skin tones and exposures, and rich colours. Effects such as auto-image enhance and cropping can also be applied from within the camera. Pictures can be stored on a removable SD/MMC or on the 27MB internal memory. Other features include: a live histogram; five colour modes; first and last burst modes; and a Share button for tagging pictures for print.

Incorporating a 6MP CCD, the **V603** includes a 3x optical Schneider-Kreuznach C-Variogon lens and 2.5in LCD.

The V603 includes Kodak Perfect Touch technology along with scene and colour modes, including panorama. It can also capture 30fps movies with MPEG-4 compression and image stabilisation technology.

Kodak has also announced two 3x optical zoom entry-level compacts. The **C643** and **C533** will be available in March.

Find out more at **www.kodak.com**

Samsung *2nd SLR*

The 6MP GX-1L is the second DSLR to be jointly developed between Pentax and Samsung.

Available as a kit with 18-55mm Schneider D_XENON lens, the GX-1L is compatible with Pentax KAF2 and KAF mount lenses.

Billed as an 'entry-level DSLR', the GX-1L features manual exposure modes alongside eight scene modes.

The **Digimax L85** is the world's first camera with a High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI), so photos can be viewed on a high-definition TV. With 8MP and comprehensive exposure options, the L85 has a 5x optical Schneider-Kreuznach lens and 2.5in LCD.

Samsung is also extending its 'A' range. The **A503** is a 5MP point and shoot compact with eight scene modes, a 2in LCD, VGA movie capture and 24Mb internal memory. With a 5MP CCD and 3x zoom, the **Digimax L60** includes 11 scene modes and a selection of colour and in-camera effects that can be applied to images. The L85 is available in April, while the A503 and L60 hit the shops in March. Samsung has yet to announce prices. **www.samsung.com/uk**

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Panasonic shows 4/3

Panasonic has announced details of its first digital SLR camera. Using the 4/3 system, the Lumix DMC-L1 features the new 7.5MP Live MOS sensor seen in Olympus's E-330, which offers full-time live view to its 2.5in LCD. Other key features include a new Venus lll processor and a Leica 14-50mm f/2.8-3.5 zoom lens, Leica's first interchangeable DSLR lens and its first with a built-in optical image stabiliser.

It is reminiscent of the earlier LC1 rangefinder, with features such as a traditional shutter speed dial on the top plate, and a traditional aperture ring on the lens.

No price has been given but the high quality of its design and construction, plus the Leica lens, suggests that it will not be an entry level SLR. Panasonic quotes a shipping date 'some time in 2006'.

Panasonic has also introduced the world's smallest digital camera featuring a 28mm wideangle Leica lens. Succeeding the popular FX9, the FX01 features 6MP and a 3.6x optical zoom. Among its 16 scene modes are High-Sensitivity Mode, enabling a maximum sensitivity of ISO 1600.

The Panasonic TZ1 is the world's first integrated lens system to use folded optics technology. The camera includes an Optical Image Stabilizer (OIS) that corrects for movement for high-zoom cameras.

Nikon Barrage

Targeting newcomers to digital photography, the Coolpix L2, L3 and L4 include new icons for easy operation, 15 scene modes and an enhanced colour scheme.

Nikon's D-Lighting feature is designed to reduce under- or overexposed pictures. For optimum portraits, Face-priority AF automatically detects and focuses on faces.

The **Coolpix P3** and **P4** incorporate Nikon's Vibration Reduction (VR) system. Originally found in Nikon DSLRs it compensates for camera shake, enabling the use of shutter speeds three stops faster, making it suitable for low-light shooting. Two modes: 'VR Normal' and 'VR Active' cater for different levels of movement.

Alongside nine advanced and seven scene modes, the P3 and P4 offer additional manual control with Aperture Priority mode. In addition the P3 boasts Wi-Fi support.

Finally the **Coolpix S5** and **Wi-Fi S6** are slimline compacts boasting enhanced slide-show capabilities. The Pictmotion feature can be used to create slideshows from movies and still images using pre-set styles and five supplied music files.

Fifteen pre-optimised scene modes feature on the cameras along with a dedicated portrait button.

The cameras include a rotary-multi selector, which uses a circular scrolling motion to scroll through pictures at a rate of 10fps.

Features common to both cameras include: In Camera Red-Eye Fix, D-Lighting, Face Priority AF and Time-lapse movie function.

Pentax Predicts

Pentax has shown a pair of exciting future products at PMA 2006. First up is an as-yet-unnamed SLR, with a 10MP sensor, expected to launch in autumn.

Second, Pentax has displayed a digital version of its 645 format camera. The **645 Digital** accepts lenses from the 645 system. The Kodak-developed sensor is expected to have 18MP. Prices and more details on both cameras have yet to be announced.

The Optio **W10** includes a tough exterior, waterproof to JIS Class 8, enabling it to be used underwater for 30 minutes to a 1.5m depth. It is snowproof, and dustproof to Class 5 category two. Sensitivity can be adjusted to ISO 800. Pentax's 6MP **Optio T10** includes a touch-screen LCD with a wide viewing angle Supplied with the T10 is a stylus pen, which can be used with the My Drawing mode to customise photos.

Sony Super Pair

Two superzooms from Sony are set to replace last year's H1. The H2 and H5 are the first H-series cameras to have Double Anti-Blur technology first seen on the T9.

The Cyber-shot H5 features a 7.2 million effective pixel sensor and 3in LCD, while the H2 has 6 million effective pixels and a 2in LCD. They each have a 12x zoom lens, covering the equivalent of 36-432mm.

The **W30** and **W50** are new additions to Sony's Cyber-shot range. Both cameras feature a 6MP CCD and a 3x optical Carl Zeiss lens. The main difference between the cameras is the LCD; the W30's is 2in and the W50's is 2.5in. Incorporated into both cameras is High Sensitivity Anti-Blur technology.

Sony has yet to announce a price for either camera. See www.sony.co.uk or call 08705 11199.

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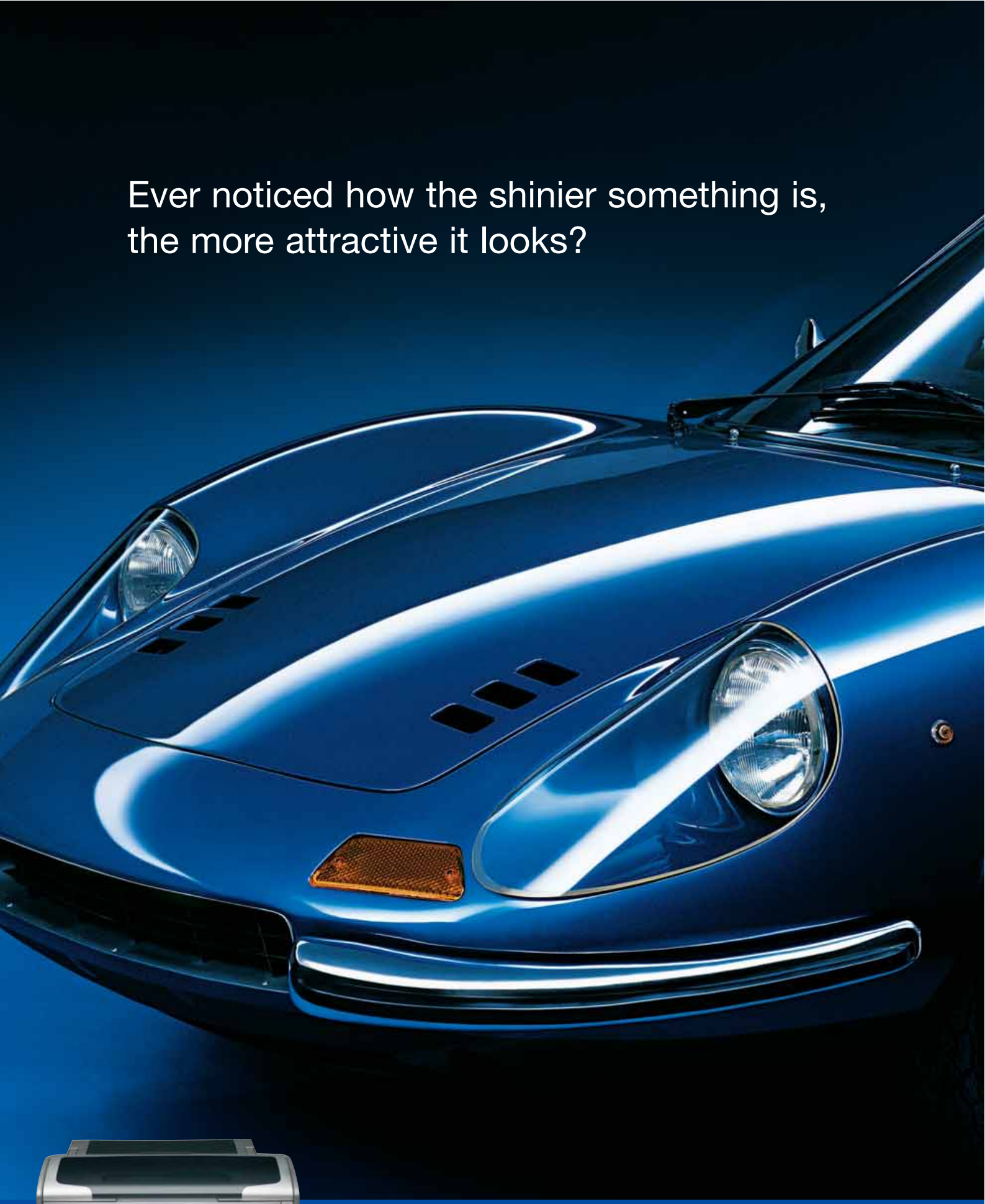
Looking to bag a bargain? *Turn to Word on the Street on page 136 for this month's best retail deals*

Ever noticed how the shinier something is, the more attractive it looks?



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Casio Slimline tonic

The 8MP EX-Z850 and the 6MP EX-Z60 are new additions to Casio's Exilim Zoom range. Both cameras incorporate a 38-114mm (35mm equiv) 3x optical zoom and 2.5in LCD, for clearer viewing outside. The Super Bright LCD on the EX-Z850 includes 1,200 cd/m² of luminescent output.

A total of 33 BESTSHOT scene modes are found on both compacts; in addition the EX-Z850 offers manual, aperture and shutter priority modes.

Casio claims the **EX-Z850** can take a picture in 1-second and has 0.0005 sec shutter lag, with the **EX-Z60** offering 1.4 sec and a 0.002 sec shutter lag.

The EX-Z850 can shoot 440 shots from a single charge of Casio's SUPERLIFE battery. Revive shot restores faded colours when copying old photos.

Several flash modes are available. Rapid Flash takes three flash pictures per second and Soft Flash prevents overexposure in close-ups. The EX-Z850 includes High Power Flash, which has a 12m range. The cameras also include: Quick Shutter; Auto Macro, which swaps the focus from auto to macro; 9-Point Multi AF; and Direct On, for quick access to record and playback modes. See **www.exilim.co.uk** or call 0208 208 7801.

Ricoh Caplio Duo

Ricoh's new RR630 marries simple operation with modest dimensions. It features a 6MP CCD and 3x optical zoom, 16MB of internal memory, and a 2in LCD composed of 130,000 pixels.

Along with automatic, the **RR630** includes four scene modes and four pre-set white balance modes. Manual adjustments can also be made to the exposure compensation. There's also a 6cm macro mode and 320x240 24fps movie mode. Compatible with SD cards, power is supplied by 2x AA batteries.

Ricoh has also introduced the 6MP **Caplio R4** compact, which boasts a 7.1x lens. Available in black and silver, the slim R4 includes a 7.1x optical wide-angle 28-200mm lens, thanks to the Double-Retracting Lens System. The 2.5in LCD has a resolution of 150,000 pixels; its brightness can be adjusted.

A Vibration Reduction System moves the CCD to counter shake for sharp images. Ricoh claims that the supplied lithium-ion battery can take 330 pictures from a single charge. Macro photos can be taken from 1cm; zoom macro adjusts the focus for optimum results. Other features include a skew correction function that corrects uneven angles.

Hasselblad Anniversary

Hasselblad is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of its founder Victor Hasselblad with the launch of the 16MP Hasselblad 503CW. The camera, which will be limited to just 500 models, follows the styling and build quality of traditional models and is fully compatible with the V System lenses and accessories.

The camera's CCD is 50% larger than 35mm-sized sensors, and outputs to Hasselblad's native RAW format, 3FR. The **503CW** offers Hasselblad's Natural Color Solution, which works with the FlexColor Imaging software to produce accurate colours. Instant Approval Architecture allows quick viewing/rating of images on the camera's screen. It's available from March for 11,900 Euros.

Hasselblad has also announced a new 16MP digital back – the **CFV** – compatible with non-digital V series cameras. It costs 8,990 Euros. For more information visit **www.hasselblad.co.uk**

New Cameras at a Glance

CAMERA	MP	LENS	LCD	PRICE
Panasonic DMC-FX01	6MP	3.6x	2.5in	tbc
Panasonic DMC-TZ1	6MP	10x	2.5in	tbc
Fujifilm F30 Zoom	6.3MP	3x	2.5in	tbc
Fujifilm A600 Zoom	6.3MP	3x	2.4in	£179.99
Fujifilm F650 Zoom	6MP	5x	3in	tbc
Fujifilm V10 5MP	3x		£249	
Sony Cyber-shot W30	6MP	3x	2in	tbc
Sony Cyber-shot W50	6MP	3x	2.5in	tbc
Casio EXILIM EX-Z850	8MP	3x	2.5in	tbc
Casio EXILIM EX-Z60	6MP	3x	2.5in	tbc
Canon EOS 30D (BODY)	8.2MP	EF/EF-S	2.5in	£1099.99
Canon PowerShot S3 IS	6MP	12x	2in	£449
Canon IXUS 800	6MP	4x	2.5in	£399
Canon IXUS 65	6MP	3x	3in	£349
Canon IXUS 60	6MP	3x	2.5in	£299
Canon PowerShot A700	6MP	6x	2.5in	£289
Canon PowerShot A540	6MP	4x	2.5in	£249
Canon PowerShot A530	5MP	4x	1.8in	£199
Canon PowerShot A430	4MP	3.2x	1.8in	£149
Nikon Coolpix L2	6MP	3x	2in	£129.99
Nikon Coolpix L3	5.1MP	3x	2in	£169.99
Nikon Coolpix L4	4MP	3x	2in	£199.99
Nikon Coolpix P3	8.1MP	3.5x	2.5in	£349.99
Nikon Coolpix P4	8.1MP	3.5x	2.5in	£329.99
Nikon Coolpix S5	6MP	3x	2.5in	£299.99
Nikon Coolpix S6	6MP	3x	3in	£349.99
Kodak EasyShare V603	6.1MP	3x	2.5in	£229.99
Kodak EasyShare C643	6.1MP	3x	2.4in	£149.99
Kodak EasyShare C553	5MP	3x	1.8in	£129.99
Kodak EasyShare Z612	6MP	12x	2.5in	£299.99
Ricoh Caplio RR630	6MP	3x	2in	£129.99
Samsung GX-1L	6MP	P-KAF	2.5in	TBC
Samsung Digimax L85	8MP	5x	2.5in	£299
Samsung Digimax A503	5MP	n/a	2in	£99
Samsung Digimax L60	6MP	3x	2.4in	tbc

For more on all the new cameras from PMA, check out our extended news coverage at ***www.whatdigitalcamera.com***

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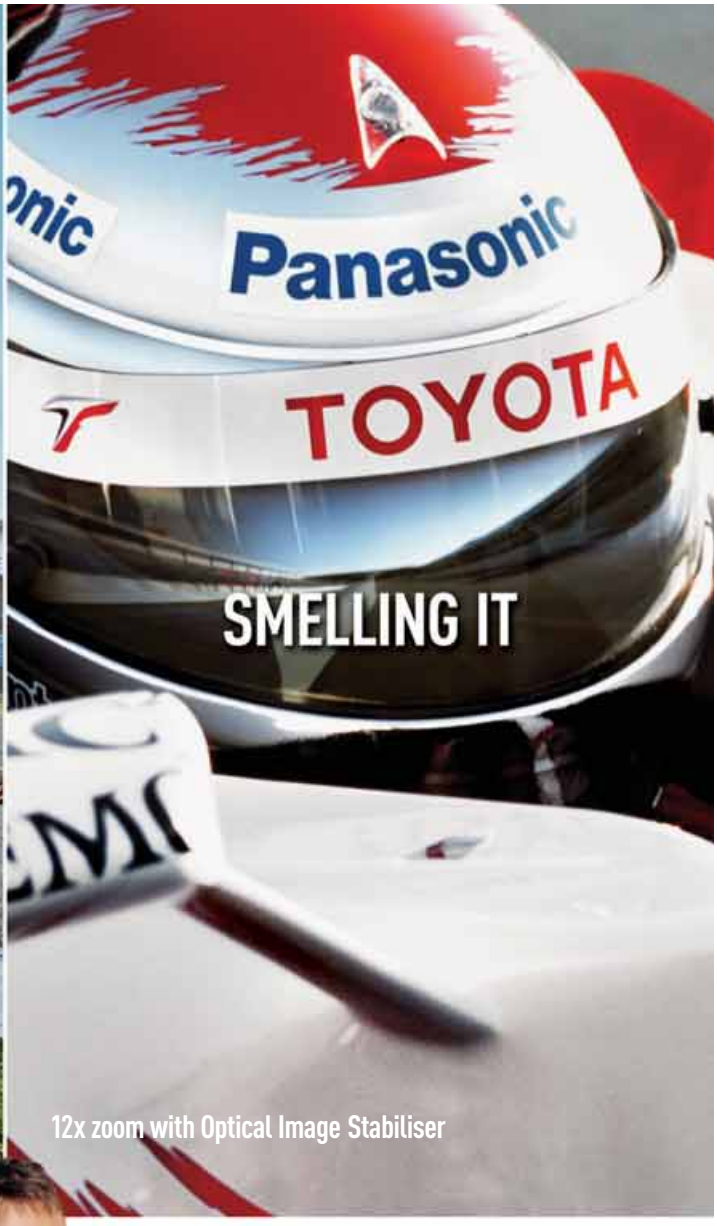

PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ7
12x ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA

The FZ7 gets you closer to the action than ever before, with its amazing 12x optical zoom. The Optical Image Stabiliser compensates for camera shake and so minimises motion blur, ideal for getting that once in a lifetime shot.

The Leica DC VARIO-ELMARIT lens* and 6 Mega pixels combine to capture every last detail, whilst the manual control option allows you to develop your creativity.

The compact FZ7 is the perfect camera for those who get a thrill out of capturing images with a difference.

To experience the Lumix difference visit **www.panasonic.co.uk/lumix** or call: **08705 357 357**

Also available in black

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LENS NEWS

Nikon *Micro Nikkor 105 mm f/2.8*

Nikon has introduced the first macro lens to incorporate its Vibration Reduction (VR) system and Silent Wave Motor (SWM).

The enhanced VR system II enables the **AF-S VR Micro-Nikkor 105mm f/2.8G IF-ED** lens to attain shutter speeds four steps lower than conventional lenses. It reduces the effect of camera shake and improves image sharpness – particularly beneficial for close-up photography.

Fast and quiet autofocusing is promised from the SWM, which enables the focus to swap quickly between manual and autofocusing modes. .

A non-rotating lens element in the Internal Focusing system enables circular polarising filters to be used. Suitable for use with digital and film SLRs, the Micro-Nikkor 105mm f/2.8G lens has a minimum focusing distance of 31cm and 1:1 maximum reproduction ratio.

Canon *Lens Duo*

Canon has introduced the EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM zoom lens. Designed exclusively for use with Canon DSLRs with the EF-S mount, it creates a 1.6x multiplication effect, providing a focal length of 27-88mm.

The lens includes a 3-stop Image Stabiliser, enabling the use of lower shutter speeds. The EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM is available from June 2006 for £869.99.

Canon has also introduced the **EF 85mm f/1.2 L II USM**. Featuring the widest aperture of any EF lens, it is suitable for low-light conditions. Aimed at the professional user it replaces the EF 85mm f/1.2 L USM and costs £1629.99. Log onto **www.canon.co.uk**

Sigma *PMA Releases*

Sigma has introduced six lenses, five of which are compatible with the FourThirds mount.

The **APO 70-200mm f/2.8 EX DG Macro HSM** lens can focus 100cm from the subject, providing a maximum magnification of 1:3:5.

Sigma has yet to announce a price for the 70-200mm lens, which is compatible with optional 1.4x and 2x teleconverters.

Sigma has also introduced the medium telephoto **105mm f/2.8 EX DG Macro** lens with a FourThirds fitting. With a minimum focusing distance of 31.2cm and maximum magnification ratio of 1:1, the lightweight (450g) lens is suitable for macro photography. The 105mm f/2.8mm lens retails for £339.99.

Retailing for £499.99, the new **APO Macro 150mm f/2.8 EX DG HSM** lens is compatible with the FourThirds mount. This compact and lightweight (895g) lens has a large aperture and can shoot 1:1 macro pictures.

Priced £369.99, the **18-50mm f.2.8 EX DC** lens includes an SLD element and two aspherical lenses, designed to reduce chromatic aberration. The fifth lens launched is the **50-500mm f/4-3.6 EX DG/HSM** lens, which includes four SLD elements to rectify chromatic aberration. Providing a 10x magnification, the lens employs a seven-group zoom system and, when used on a FourThirds camera, the focal length is 100-1000mm.

Retailing for £899.99, it offers compatibility with 1.4x and 3x tele converters, Triple-cam Rear Focusing System and a zoom-lock switch.

Sigma's final release also features a FourThirds fitting. Priced £319.99, the **30mm f/1.4 EX DC HSM** includes two SLD elements to compensate for chromatic aberrations. Special coating reduces the effects of ghosting and flare and the HSM ensures fast AF performance.

To find out more about any of these products, visit **www.sigma-imaging-uk.com** or call 01707 329999.

Tamron *17-50 mm lens*

Tamron has introduced a lightweight wideangle zoom lens and upgraded two favourites.

Compatible with the Nikon AF-D, Canon AF and Konica Minolta AF-D mount, the new **SP AF 17-50mm f/2.8 XR Di II LD Aspherical (IF)** lens is designed for use with APS-C digital SLRs.

The focal length is equivalent to 26-78mm in a 35mm camera. The lens has a maximum magnification ratio of 1:4.5, focusing as close as 27cm from the subject throughout the zoom range.

Both the AF 28-200mm zoom and 70-300mm telephoto zoom lenses are now available in Tamron's Digitally Integrated (Di) series.

Both lenses are compatible with Nikon AF-D, Canon AF, Konica Minolta AF-D and Pentax AF mounts.

Find out more by calling 01628 674411 or logging onto **www.intro2020.co.uk**

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Epson *Scanning duo*

The Epson Perfection V750 Pro and the V700 Photo are the world's first flatbed scanners to offer a resolution of 6400x9600 dpi for under £550. This is possible through the incorporation of a Dual Lens System, which includes one lens with a resolution of 6400dpi and one with a resolution of 4800dpi.

The V750 Pro is aimed at professional photographers, while the V700 Photo is aimed at enthusiasts.

Each flatbed includes an 8x10in scanning area and four film holders, supporting batch scanning, compatible with: 35mm strips, slides, and medium and large format film.

Digital ICE Technology removes dust, scratches and dirt that can blight a photo or piece of film. For enhanced speed and quality, the V750 Pro includes a High Pass Optics system, while the Anti Reflection Option Coating reduces the effect of ghosting. The V700 can scan 35mm film in 44 seconds and an A4 mono document in 11 seconds.

Both scanners support Firewire and USB 2.0 transfer, and are bundled with Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 and SilverFast AI6.

Hitting the shops in May, the Perfection V750 Pro will cost £549; while the Perfection V700 Photo is available in March for £399. Find out more at **www.epson.co.uk**.

Canon Extends *PIXMA line-up*

Canon has announced the addition of seven printers to its PIXMA line-up: two A3 professional printers, four for the small business user and a wireless multi-functional.

Available in the autumn, both the 10-colour Lucia ink **PIXMA Pro9500** (£649) and the 8-colour dye ink **Pro9000** (£499) are A3 printers capable of producing photographs and commercial grade output.

Designed for use with Canon EOS DSLRs, they support lossless printing directly from RAW files and are compatible with PC and Macintosh computers.

The **PIXMA iX5000** (£329) and **iX4000** (£249) are A3 printers, suitable for documents and photo prints, which will be available in April.

Combining a printer, scanner, copier and fax are the **PIXMA MP830** (£329) and **MP530** (£249), which hit the shops in May. All include ChromaLife 100 technology for long-lasting prints.

The **PIXMA MP800R** (£329) is a printer with wireless capability, enabling users to obtain prints remotely. Comprised of a printer, copier and scanner, Bluetooth compatibility is optional and users can print directly from a memory card. It will be available in March.

Find out more at **www.canon.co.uk** or by calling 08705 143723.

HP Photosmart *Pro B9180*

HP is extending its Photosmart range with an A3 professional printer that boasts long print life.

Eight HP 38 Pigment Ink cartridges with the capacity to print 80 or 840 10x8-inch prints are found on the **HP Photosmart Pro B9180**, while waterproof Vivera inks are designed to produce high-quality prints that dry instantly and – according to testing from the Wilhelm institute – last longer than 200 years.

Henry Wilhelm from Wilhelm Imaging Research comments: 'When displayed framed under glass, prints made with the new printer, inks, and papers are among the longest-lasting prints in the entire 130-year history of colour photography.'

The Photosmart Pro B9180 boasts print speeds of 19 seconds for 10x15in prints and A3 prints under 90 seconds. Two-colour print heads and four dual-colour print heads, with 8448 nozzles are found on the Pro B9180, that are designed to produce accurate colour representation and drop placement.

Alongside the Photoshop-compatible HP Pro print plug-in, for precise colour representation the supplied software includes a selection of ICC profiles.

HP has also introduced four A3+ fine-art papers: Aquarella Art, Watercolour, Smooth Fine Art and Artist Matte, that are compatible with the Pro B9180.

The HP Photosmart Pro B9180 will cost about £489 (699 euros); log onto **www.hp.com/uk** to find out more.

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PEOPLE & PICTURES

Ami Vitale

Tsunami *in pictures*

Boxing Day 2005 was a day few people will forget, as a ferocious tsunami hit South-East Asia, killing thousands and destroying homes and villages. Oxfam has been helping local communities to rebuild.

'After the Wave' is an outdoor exhibition of 36 photographs from 24 leading news photographers including Dan Chung and Scott Barbour, taken in the aftermath and during the reconstruction.

During April, the free exhibition will be in Cardiff (dates TBC) before moving to Jubilee Square in Brighton from 15th May – 30th June.

All the photographs are reproduced in 'After the Wave: The Tsunami Remembered Exhibition Catalogue', which is available now from Oxfam for £9.99. Find out more at **www.oxfam.org.uk**

Simply *Black & White*

A selection of black and white photographs by Graham Finlayson will be on display at The Lowry in Salford Quays.

'Simply Black and White' comprises 80 pictures from the late 1950s to early 1970s, and includes Finlayson's local and international work.

Finlayson worked as a staff photographer on the *Daily Mail* and the *Guardian* in Manchester, before going freelance in 1964, where he worked on supplements for *The Sunday Times* and *Daily Telegraph*. His work in the 1950s and 1960s alongside contemporaries such as David Bailey helped change press photography.

The exhibition runs from April 8th to July 16th 2006, at The Lowry, Pier 8, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ. Admission is free; for more information call 0870 787 5793.

Graham Finlayson

COMPETITIONS

WIN A Big Cat *Day out*

Wood Green Animal Shelters is launching a photography competition, open to all ages. Entrants need to submit a picture of a domestic pet highlighting the part they play in everyday lives.

Experience Seminars has provided a 'Big Cat Photo Experience' to the winning photographer. Taking place in Kent, the winner will have a chance to photograph leopards and tigers alongside an experienced photographer, as well as receiving expert tuition on how to get the best out of both their camera and the cats/location. The closing date is 5th May. For more details, email info@woodgreen.org.uk.

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Copyright: Dave Cosens

www.webshots.com

With 280 million photographs to choose from, Webshots is an excellent site to view photography from around the world. Striking professional shots are grouped into several categories including nature scenes, ocean life, travel, digital art and animals, which members can download as screensavers or backgrounds. There is a thriving photography community, where amateur shots can be displayed, discussed and downloaded with thousands of other members.

http://hubblesite.org

After more than 15 years of mapping the heavens, the Hubble Telescope has captured hundreds of stunning shots of the universe, which are on display here. Hubblesite allows you to navigate through a vast picture gallery of all the major space phenomena, including nebulae, the solar system and galaxies. The star collection is particularly striking, with a range of photographs charting the birth, life and dramatic death of these huge gas balls. There is also an in-depth section explaining how the telescope is able to capture such detailed images.

UK Press and Photographer *of the Year announced*

Dave Cosens has been crowned Adobe Systems 'UK Press and Photographer of the Year', beating 3,500 entrants.

His winning picture was taken at Brands Hatch, for *Kent Life*, depicting the season's first A1F1 Grand Prix race.

Organised by the Society of Wedding and Portrait Photographs and the British Professional Photographers Associates, Dave was awarded a glass trophy, certificate and selection of Adobe software.

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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA Next Month

Canon EOS 30D Samsung GX-1S

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- Samsung's first ever digital SLR

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Wide Boy

John Freeman explores the world of wideangles

ON SALE April 21ST

Best Shot Selector

Send us your best photos and win a prize

Monique *Bogaerts*

From: Belgium

My passion for nature photography began with a love of animals. I have been fascinated with them since I was a child. My dad showed me the beauty of nature and I now have my own farm, with goats, dogs, cats and rabbits. My vision is to capture the beauty of wildlife and nature, and to share it with others through my photographs.

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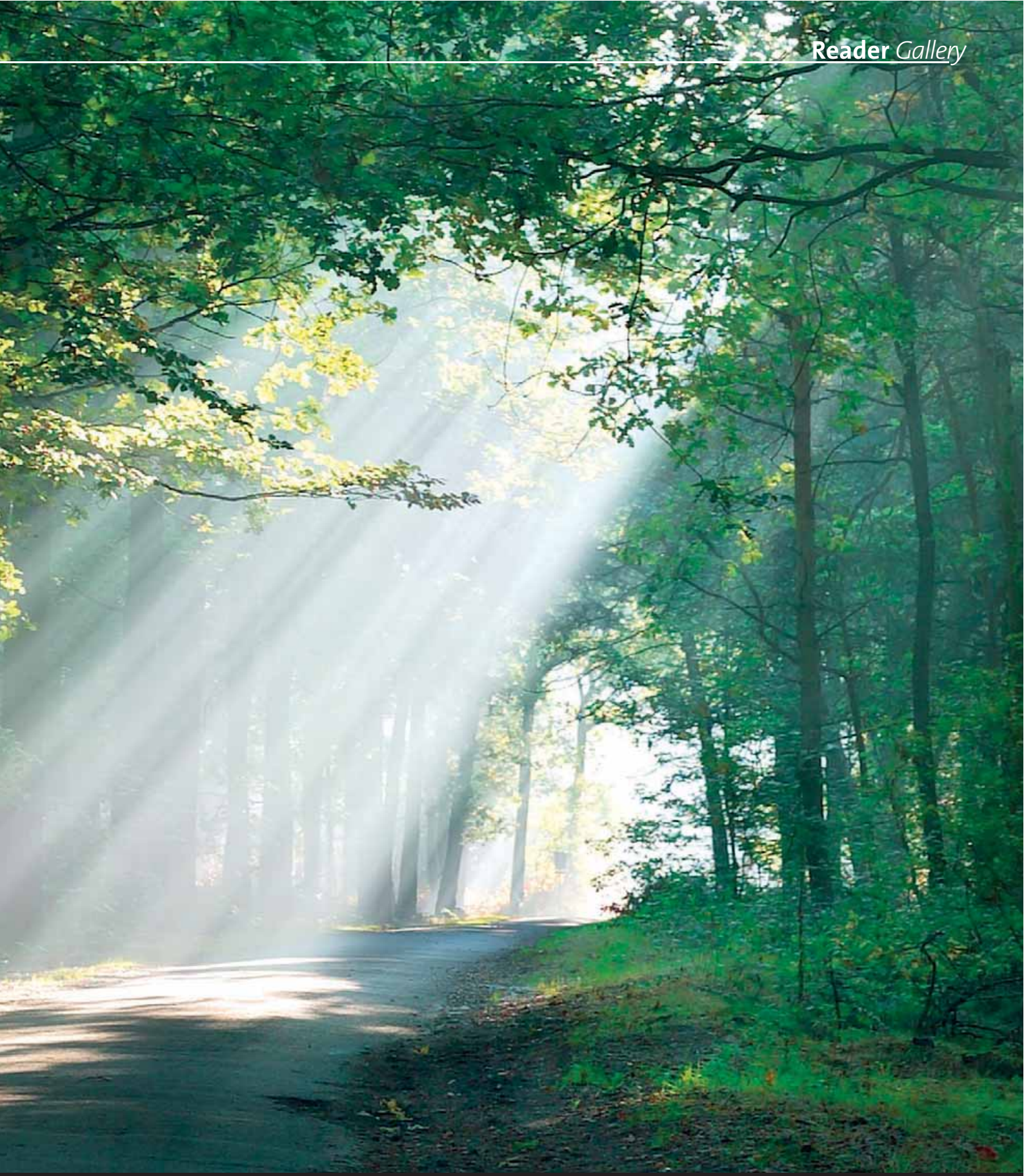

THE LIGHT
DETAILS: Canon EOS 10D, Sigma 50-500mm, f/6.3, ISO 200
MONIQUE SAYS: In Photoshop I added a Gaussian Blur layer to create a soft look

WE SAY: *The sort of fantastic light you can imagine emanating from a divine hand poking out through a gap in the clouds. Cue Grieg's Peer Gynt as the soundtrack.*

MONIQUE WINS: £100 VOUCHER FROM WAREHOUSE EXPRESS

Monique wins £100 in vouchers to spend on whatever takes her fancy at award-winning online retailer, Warehouse Express. Check out their vast range of stock at www.warehouseexpress.com

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LONDON EYE VIEWED AT SUNSET
DETAILS: Canon EOS 20D, f/7.1, ISO 200
STEVE SAYS: Composite of three exposures layered and blended in the manner of an HDR image. Selected colour adjustments were performed

WE SAY: *We see thousands of pictures of the London Eye, but not from this viewpoint. An original spin on what's become a clichéd subject*

Steve *Edwards*

From: London

I'm an amateur photographer based in south London with an interest in contemporary and digital art. My recent work, which was shot at night during winter in London, has been an attempt to emphasise light and colour in a season of darkness. It was also an exercise in exploring the creative potential offered by a recent purchase of a digital SLR – particularly the ability to do long exposure night photography. *See more of Steve's work at* ***www.flickr.com/photos/cactus23***

TIFF G Proudly Presents, Tiff for Support

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE BY NIGHT
DETAILS: Canon EOS 20D, Sigma 18-200mm, 26 sec, f/22, ISO 100
STEVE SAYS: The clouds were dodged; I also adjusted the hue and saturation after converting the RAW file to Tiff

WE SAY: *By day, an ugly concrete monstrosity (well, that seems to be the general consensus anyway) but by night a thing of beauty – at least, it is when seen through Steve's well-directed lens*

GABRIEL'S WHARF
DETAILS: Canon EOS 20D, Sigma 18-200mm, 29 sec, f/22, ISO 200
STEVE SAYS: I used RawShooter to convert the RAW file to Tiff, then adjusted the hue and saturation and dodged the clouds

WE SAY: *A nice shot of London's South Bank taken just feet from our office*

STEVE WINS: A COPY OF ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CS2

Adobe Photoshop CS2, the professional image-editing software, features groundbreaking creative tools to help you achieve extraordinary results. Photoshop CS2 also boasts more efficient editing, processing and file handling.

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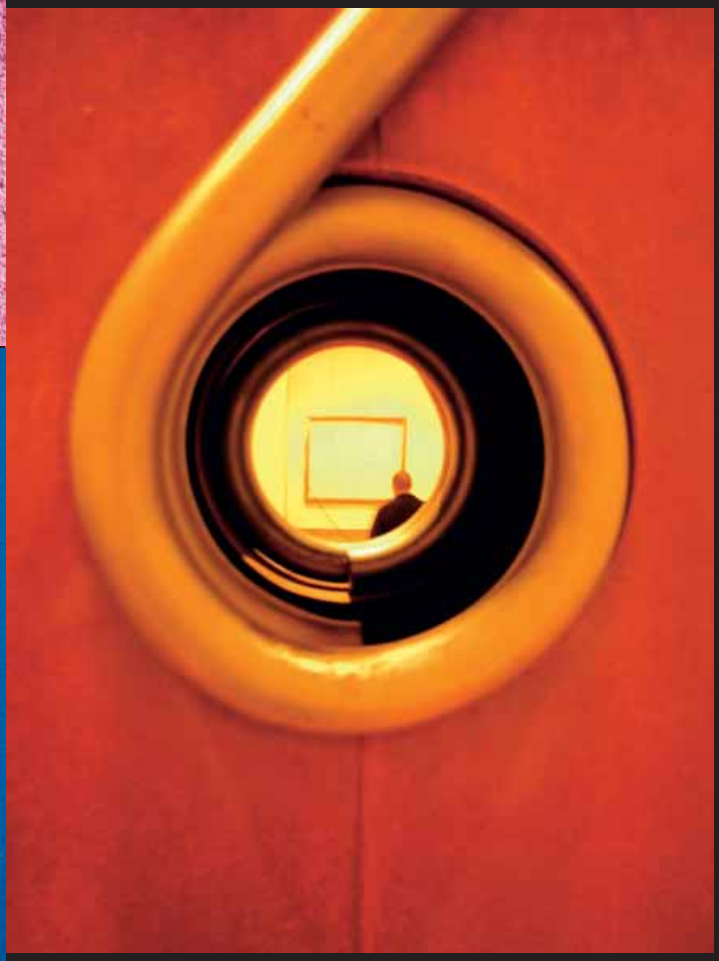
RED, YELLOW AND PINK
DETAILS: Nikon Coolpix 8400
DAVE SAYS: Every wall of the hotel was painted in incredibly strong, bold colours. Sadly the interior was appalling in every other way, but at least the outside was photogenic

WE SAY: *This shot has a great three-dimensional quality*

MAN LOOKING AT ART... SEEN THROUGH ART
DETAILS: Nikon Coolpix 8400
DAVE SAYS: Shot through a sculpture by Claes Oldenburg of a giant clothes peg at the Chicago Art Institute, a man looks at 'Hang Up' by Eva Hess. Instead of being a record of either of those pieces the photo becomes its own entity

WE SAY: *Very well observed, and imaginatively executed*



WHITE ON BLUE
DETAILS: Nikon Coolpix 8400
DAVE SAYS: Another picture taken from the outside of the photogenic but dreadful LA hotel

WE SAY: *Very simple shot comprising, in effect, just one colour. A great example of why less is sometimes more*

Dave *Gorman*

From: London

I'd never taken photography very seriously and spent years just taking pictures of friends and family. Travelling on your own is boring, so during a tour of the States I bought a Nikon Coolpix 8400 as a distraction and was quickly hooked. Night photography is my favourite – everything looks better at night.

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Visit www.epson.co.uk or call 0800 220 546 for further information on EPSON products

SEATTLE
DETAILS: Nikon Coolpix 8400
DAVE SAYS: The wall is built out of layers of reflectors. I'd already taken a picture of the artwork when this lad came into view and gave it a real sense of scale

WE SAY: *Without the figure this could be a macro shot of a piece of fabric. The silhouette provides scale and, as a result, the wow factor*

MOTEL GRAND
DETAILS: Nikon Coolpix 8400
DAVE SAYS: Sadly the Motel Grand is now anything but. I really love Googie architecture and took a lot of photos of once-thriving-now-dying motels

WE SAY: *A well-taken shot of a quirky nocturnal detail*

DAVE WINS: A SUPERB EPSON STYLUS R800 PRINTER
The Stylus Photo R800 features EPSON's UltraChrome Hi-Gloss pigment ink, to deliver groundbreaking quality, durability and flexibility in printing.

www.epson.co.uk

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Your Pictures *Images must be big enough to reproduce at a reasonable size. Make sure they're:*
• At least 1800x1200 pixels in size. This equates to a printed size of 15x10cm (6x4") at 300ppi – or an open file size of about 8MB per image, before saving.
• If emailing, bear in mind that JPEGS are much smaller when not open, but make sure attachments don't exceed 3MB in total. Send more than one email if necessary.
• Be sure to include your name and full contact details on the CD or email and, if possible, caption details.

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OLYMPUS E-330

quick view

PRICE £900

- SENSOR: 4/3 Live MOS (17.3x13mm) 7.5MP Effective
- SHUTTER SPEED: 60 to 1/4000 sec/B
- ISO: 100-1600
- EXP MODES: M,A,S,P, 20 Scene
- FLASH: Built in/ Hotshoe
- VIEWFINDER: Reflex
- MONITOR: 2.5in flip-out LCD
- OTHER: CF I& II, xD JPEG, ORF, 3 fps, Live view LCD
- POWER: Li-Ion
- DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 140x87x72mm/550g

7 mega pixels

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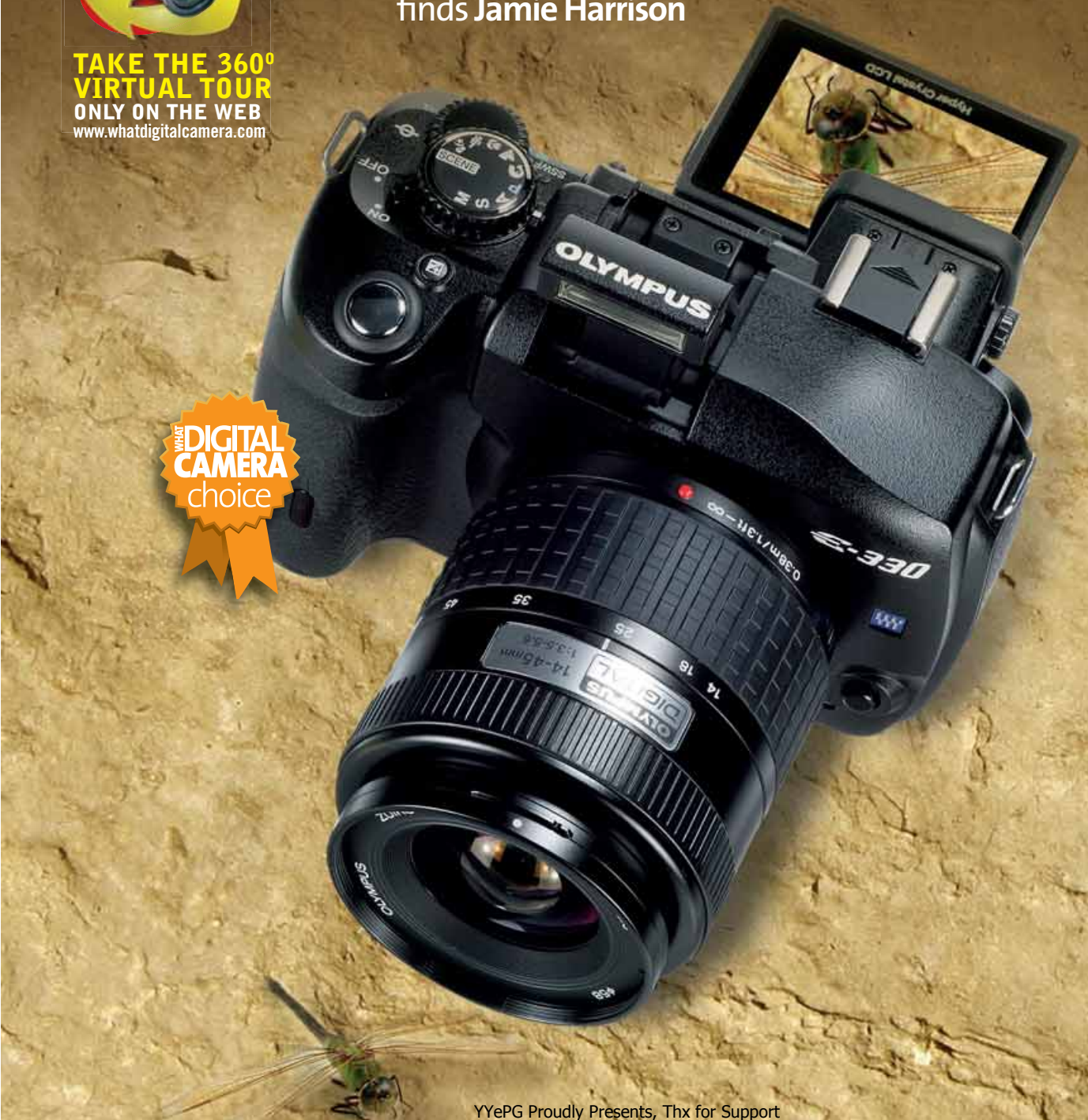
Twist & Shout

The E-330 is the latest in Olympus's FourThirds system and has more than a couple of unique features, finds **Jamie Harrison**



WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

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Above: The E-330 is capable of some very nice images with good exposures

Left: The kit lens and sensor combination produces sharp results

see more on the web

Download our Olympus E-330 test images on our website,

www.whatdigitalcamera.com

back view

The camera is dominated by the 2.5in LCD. Button layout is good and the viewfinder clear

top view

The unusual design is evident thanks to the porro "sideways" pentaprism. The built-in flash lies flush to the top plate and the hotshoe is positioned over the viewfinder

side view

Notice the pop-up flash and flat top. There's a rubber cover on the side to protect the combined USB/ Video Out port. You can also see the slightly protruding flip-out monitor

Olympus E-330

Olympus continues to push its FourThirds system, with the fourth camera in the line-up. The E-330 follows the innovative design of the E-300, which allows Olympus to play with the form of what a digital camera could be and introduce new and unique features.

This new model, for example, has several features never seen before on digital SLRs, or traditional SLRs come to that. Not least is a live-view monitor; this is not quite a world first, as Fujifilm has one on the Finepix S3Pro, but the Olympus one is colour and is applied to an adjustable hinge for easy viewing. It also incorporates a new sensor not previously seen on a camera, of which more anon.

FEATURES

First things first, let's talk about that continuous live-viewing monitor. The problem with most SLRs is the pentaprism system. Simply put, when you look through a TTL viewfinder, the image you see comes through the lens, onto a mirror and is projected on a matt screen, which is viewed through another mirror in the top pentaprism. A bit like a periscope. Therefore no light reaches the sensor until the shutter button is pressed, the mirror flips up out of the way of the light path, and the shutter behind the mirror is opened. This is why the viewfinder goes black.

In the case of the E-330, in Live View Mode A, a second sensor in the pentaprism receives the image and feeds it to the monitor on the back of the camera. In Mode B, the feed comes directly from the Live MOS sensor. However, this mode only offers manual focusing, and is recommended for macro photography. The direct-feed system works by flipping the mirror and opening the mechanical shutter blind to allow the scene to be caught as a video feed by the sensor. When an image is taken, the shutter has to close, reopen and close for the exposure and open again back to Live View; obviously this slows operation down and burst speeds are less than the 3fps in normal shooting modes. And because the monitor is a flip-out type, you can view images above or below eye level, which is great for a variety of purposes, for example low-level shooting, or paparazzi-style over the heads of crowd shots. Now you can see and compose, reducing the risk of point and hope.

The pentaprism varies from the norm, too. Most SLRs have an upward path, giving the cameras

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up against

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NIKON D70S £580

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buying guide

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OLYMPUS E-330
quick view

LIVE VIEW BUTTON
This button switches the live view modes on. Choose between continual AF mode or manual mode, which offers a 100% view direct from the sensor. You need to press the monitor button to view the live feed

LCD
The 2.5in LCD monitor is on a bracket and flips out of the camera body to allow low or high-level viewing

VIEWFINDER
Despite the LCD, you can't beat an optical viewfinder. The one on the E-330 is bright enough, but quite small especially compared to a more conventional camera. This is due to the smaller format of the sensor

the unmistakable-looking box on the top plate. The E-330 has a practically flat top plate, with no unsightly raised bumps. This is due to the Porro type viewfinder, in effect turning the mirrors and prism 90° on its side so the light path is directed to the right as it enters the camera, which combined with the 4/3 sensor keeps the camera smaller than average. The first time we saw this type of viewfinder in a DSLR was in last year's E-300.

Talking of sensors, another new feature is the Live MOS sensor. This is a Metal Oxide Semiconductor solid-state image sensor, in Olympus 4/3 format, smaller than the more common APS-C. The sensor has been developed with and made by Panasonic, and will also appear in the forthcoming Panasonic Lumix L1. Essentially the new sensor is a cross between a CCD and CMOS, with the larger photosites of a CCD combined with individual amplifiers at each photosite, like a CMOS. Olympus claims this produces less noise. The sensitivity range is ISO 100 to 400, which can be boosted to 1600 in 1/3-step stops in manual modes. In auto ISO, the range stays within the lower limit. Processing is via Olympus' True Pic Turbo II processor as on the E-300 and E-500 as well as several compacts.

The SuperSonic Wave Filter is included, which blasts the sensor at start-up to shift any dust that's gathered. This is then gathered onto a sticky pad at the bottom of the sensor. You can also perform the operation at any time via a dedicated button on the camera. Other unique Olympus features include the shadow and highlight metering modes, whereby you can expose specifically for high and low-key subjects, using the spot metering area. Other metering options include 49-point ESP evaluative metering, centreweighted and 2% spot metering. Focusing is via three points, with single, continuous and manual options, while continuous shooting is 3fps over 15 frames in JPEG or 4 RAW or TIFF. There's a dual card slot for Compact Flash or xD media.

image *quality*

On the whole, images are very good from the Olympus E-330, with better sharpness than six-megapixel models. JPEGs turn out good image quality at ISO 100 and 200, but by 400 noise begins to creep into shadow areas. It is even more obvious if you study the individual channels, but full-colour images don't show the noise as much. It's certainly better than the older E-300.

RAW images look good, but benefit from sharpening and again need some noise reduction, especially in the higher ISO range. That's to be expected, though. It's worth bearing in mind that the camera has a lower ISO range than, say, the Pentax or Nikon models, so comparative images at the higher ISOs are worse on this model due to the extra gain added in order to reach those high speeds. Certainly by the time you reach 800 and above, noise can often be quite nasty.

On the positive side though, colour and exposure is very good, and thanks to the FourThirds system, images are optimised very well.

Finally it's worth playing with the wide range of scene modes, an impressive 27 in all, which for JPEG images can really improve images in many ways.

Other features that are worth mentioning are the black & white modes, which also offer digital versions of conventional glass filters. Though not as extreme as glass versions, they are useful and fun to play with.

see more *on the web*
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OLYMPUS E-330
quick view

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

LENS
The kit comes with an Olympus Zuiko Digital 14-45mm f/3.5-5.6 lens. The 4/3 mount provides a 2x magnification factor of images, so this lens is the equivalent of a 28-90mm lens

SHOOTING MODES
As well as conventional modes, the camera has 20 scene modes. The five most used are accessed directly on the mode dial, the others via the 'SCENE' setting on the dial

The built-in flash is fitted in the top plate, and there's a hotshoe adapter for Olympus-dedicated flash units, including the FL-36 and FL-50.

The camera uses the open standard 4/3 mount, so lenses supplied by Olympus and Sigma in that mount will fit, as well as future lenses from Panasonic/Leica.

'The 2.5in pull-out screen is a winner... the best innovation we've seen on an SLR so far this year'

DESIGN

I'll confess to a dislike of the design of the earlier E-300, in aesthetic terms. The E-330 has continued this but a more pitched top plate and new finish has improved it. The design is an acquired taste, but it's growing on me. From the back, the camera is better. The 2.5in pull-out screen is definitely a winner. It can be angled downwards by 45°, ideal for shooting over a crowd, or angled upwards by 45° or 90°. This is a lovely feature offering all the advantages of a waist-level finder. As innovations go, this is the best we've seen on an SLR so far this year. On the downside though, constant handling makes it prone to fingerprint smears.

Button placement is good, though the buttons are small compared to, say, the Nikon D70S. The layout is very different from the E-300, with more buttons and features available directly on camera instead of menu driven. This makes the camera feel more professional.

PERFORMANCE

The SupersonicWave Filter delays the start-up of the camera, but considering the good this feature does, this is no bad thing. Otherwise, the camera is nippy, with a reasonable AF system that locks onto subjects, allowing immediate shooting. Continuous AF has a few problems tracking some fast-moving subjects, but this isn't a camera designed for sport or fast shooting really. Especially when you consider the average burst rate and the fairly low buffer rate.

In other ways, the camera performs well, with good battery life and nice handling. Obviously the killer feature of the live monitor is the high point, though focusing manually with the screen on is less easy than through the viewfinder. The screen performs well in bright light, though, and is easily shielded when shooting at waist level.

One advantage of the camera is the high and low metering options, which help to reduce the amount of guesswork needed in trickier lighting. But the ±5 EV bracketing options are there as further back-up should you feel even more reticent about exposure.

VALUE

For £900 including the kit lens, the Olympus E-330 is more expensive than many comparative models, though this price is bound to drop. However for some people the added bonus of the extra pixels and pull-out live view monitor will make the E-330 worth paying the extra for.

VERDICT

There's a lot to recommend this camera, especially that monitor. I found this to be the camera's Unique Selling Point and it's a long-overdue feature that is also extremely useful and fun. Features like this show that Olympus are thinking of the advantages of a digital system and not merely replicating 35mm systems. In some ways the camera performs less well, particularly in low or flat light, when noise can occur. On the whole though, the camera is a very nice piece of kit and one I would happily take with me on holiday. **WDC**

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specifications

MANUFACTURER:	Olympus
MODEL:	E-330
PRICE:	£900
SENSOR:	Live MOS 7.5 MP effective, 7.94MP total, 4/3, 17.3 x 13.0mm, 3136 x 2352 pixels
MAX PRINT SIZE:	15.68 x 11.76-inch at 200dpi
LENS:	4/3 mount
SHUTTER SPEEDS:	60 – 1/4000 ec & Bulb
ISO:	100-1600 1/3 stop increments
EXP MODES:	M, A, S, P, 20 Scene modes
FLASH:	Hotshoe, Pop up flash GN 13
DRIVE MODES:	Single, continuous 3fps over 15 HQ JPEG, 4 RAW
METER:	49 zone Digital ESP, 2% spot, centreweighted, Shadow and Highlight modes, ±5EV
WHITE BALANCE:	Auto, 7 preset, 1 custom, colour temp, bracket and fine tuning
FOCUS:	3 point selectable AF, single, continuous, manual
VIEWFINDER:	Porro mirror, 95% coverage
MONITOR:	2.5in TFT LCD with 100% real-time viewing
CONNECTION:	USB 2.0, AV
REC FORMAT:	JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW
FILE SUPPORT:	PictBridge, EXIF, DPOF
VIDEO OUTPUT:	NTSC, Pal
POWER:	Li-Ion
STORAGE:	CF I&II, xD
OTHER:	sRGB, Adobe RGB, dust removal
DIMENSIONS:	140 x 87 x 72mm
WEIGHT:	550g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
Pull-out LCD, overall handling, dual media slots, Anti-dust

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Noisy images as gain is raised, fingerprints on screen, lack of PC socket for studio lights

the scores

FEATURES Specification, controls	19
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	16

86%

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After a 20 year career in photojournalism (he was a 5-term President of the White House News Photographers Association), Kevin founded Blue Pixel, America's Digital Experts, to teach digital photography. Today, he's shooting reality TV and is lead photographer of the EcoChallenge adventure race.

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PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ7

6 mega pixels **12** x zoom

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front view

A rubberised grip ensures the FZ7 is fairly comfortable to hold. I found it easier to hold the camera using two hands

top view

The top of the camera includes a pop-up flash, mode dial, anti shake button, zoom, shutter and focusing buttons

side view

DC and AV connections are concealed behind a flip-out plastic door; the DC cable is an optional accessory

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in CCD (5.75 x 4.29mm) 6MP
- **LENSES** F/2.8-3.3 (35mm equ 36-432mm)
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 60 – 1/2000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Auto, P, A, S, M, 16 scene modes
- **ISO** Auto, 80-400, (High Sens 800, 1600)
- **FLASH** 0.3m – 6m (W) 0.3m - 5.4m (T)
- **VIEWFINDER** Electronic, 114,000 pixels
- **MONITOR** 2.5in LCD, 114,000 pixels
- **OTHER** SD/MMC, 16:9 30fps movie 16:9 JPEG
- **POWER** Lithium-ion
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 112.5 x 72.2 x 79mm/310g

up against

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buying guide

Turn to page 130 to use our extensive buying guide and we will help you choose the right camera at the right price

Panasonic FZ7

Feature-packed 6MP camera with a 12x Leica lens

Tested by *Hannah Bouckley* **£349** www.panasonic.co.uk

Joining the crowded superzoom market, the FZ7 is the successor to 2005's FZ5. Instead of just upping the resolution from 5MP to 6MP, Panasonic has made some notable improvements.

FEATURES

The FZ7 has a full complement of exposure modes. Inexperienced photographers can use the 16 scene modes – including (the new) Baby 2, Panning, Food and Night Scenery. There is also a Simple mode, which is fully automatic. The standout feature on the camera is the 36-432 mm (35mm equivalent) Leica lens, which moves smoothly to telephoto; the long focal length is great for bird spotting.

To counter the effect of camera shake, which can be problematic on mega-zoom cameras, the FZ7 has Panasonic's Optical Image Stabiliser (O.I.S), which is designed to detect shake and rectify it by shifting the O.I.S lens. In Mode 1 it is on continuously, while Mode2 activates it when the shutter is pressed.

At first glance the FZ7 appears to have a fairly standard maximum sensitivity of ISO 400; however in High Sensitivity mode you can attain ISO 800 and ISO 1600 at maximum resolution. For low-light shooting it is useful to use it in conjunction with Mega OIS, but it is a shame the settings can't be accessed from aperture or shutter priority modes.

Several burst modes are found on the FZ7. High speed captures three pictures per second and Low speed captures two per second, enabling you to snap up to seven pictures at high resolution.

Signalling that the camera is for consumers rather than enthusiasts, the FZ7 lacks a RAW mode. I presume this is distinguish it from its stablemate the FZ30 – however, it would be a nice addition and something found on some rivals, including the Fujifilm S5600 and Kodak P850.

Panasonic has also added a 16:9 photo format for viewing on widescreen televisions, as well as 16:9 movie mode.

DESIGN

Panasonic has enlarged the LCD to 2.5in, from the FZ5's 1.8in, though the 115,000-pixel resolution is a little low. The increase in size has led to a reduction in space at the back and the repositioning of the viewfinder; but the Lumix is still fairly comfortable to hold, with all buttons accessible to your thumb.

The joystick is new; I'm not a big fan of these controls on cameras . However, with a little practice it is fairly easy, as you just push it up and down to change the aperture and shutter. The menu and set button is incorporated in a separate five-button grouping, replacing the four-way controller of old.

PERFORMANCE

The FZ7's autofocus modes include: 1-area High Speed, 1-area and spot. Nine-area and 3-area High Speed are fairly accurate at detecting the subject, and nifty, though they slow a little at telephoto. With the inclusion of a manual focus Panasonic has addressed a criticism of the FZ7. When selected, the central portion of the screen enlarges

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EVF/LCD BUTTON
Hit the EVF/LCD button to swap between the electronic viewfinder and LCD. The viewfinder includes a dioptre

FOUR-WAY CONTROLLER
Use the four-way controller to adjust the Exposure Compensation/ Bracketing/Flash; self-timer; flash and review the previous picture. Individual buttons are preferable to the large control found on the FZ5

specifications

MANUFACTURER:	Panasonic
MODEL:	Lumix DMC-FZ7
PRICE:	£349
SENSOR:	1/2.5" (5.75 x 4.29mm)6MP effective, 6.37MP total
MAX PRINT SIZE:	14 x 11inch at 200dpi
LENS:	f2.8-3.3 (35mm equiv: 36-432mm)
SHUTTER SPEEDS:	60 – 1/2000sec
ISO:	Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, (High Sens 800, 1600)
EXP MODES:	Auto, AP, M, P, SP, 16 scene modes
FLASH:	0.3m – 6m (W) 0.3m - 5.4m (T)
DRIVE MODES:	Full resolution, 3fps or 2fps, max 13 images (standard), 7 images (fine)
METER:	Multi, centre-weighted, spot
WHITE BALANCE:	Auto, 5 preset, adjustable white balance -/+1500K
FOCUS:	1 point, 1 point high speed, 3 point high speed, 9 points, spot, manual
VIEWFINDER:	Electronic, 114,000 pixels
MONITOR:	2.5in LCD, 114,000 pixels
CONNECTION:	USB, AV, DC
REC FORMAT:	Tiff, Fine Jpeg, Standard Jpeg
FILE TYPE:	PictBridge
VIDEO OUTPUT:	NTSC, Pal
POWER:	Li-ion
STORAGE:	SD/MMC
OTHER:	640x480 30fps, hotshoe, Mega O.I.S
DIMENSIONS:	112.5 x 72.2 x 79mm
WEIGHT:	310g

The FZ7 features Panasonic's Venus Engine II, to reduce chromatic aberration. I did encounter slight purple fringing, but nothing horrific. Exposures are accurate and fairly sharp; the lens exhibits minor barrel distortion at wideangle. Noise is evident in dark areas at ISO 100 when viewed at 100%, so isn't really problematic. ISO 200 is quite bad and gets much worse at ISO 400. Mega O.I.S really improves the clarity of shots at telephoto, especially indoors or in dim light, though on occasion I still encountered shake.

see more *on the web*

Download our FZ7 test images on our website

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what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE:
Versatile Leica lens; Mega O.I.S reduces camera shake; Inclusion of manual focusing mode

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Lacks a RAW shooting mode; ISO 1600 limited to High-Sensitivity mode; Noise levels at ISO 400

and you can make adjustments using the joystick, which is adequate, if not quite as smooth as using a focus ring.

Flick the on/off switch and it is just over two seconds before the lens extends and you can take a

'When in manual focus, the central portion of the screen enlarges ...'

photograph. The shutter is fast and responsive, and I didn't notice any problems with shutter lag. Shot-cycle times impress as well – I clocked around 1.5 seconds for 6MP images taken at maximum quality with focus lock, capturing more than 50 pictures in succession.

VALUE

The sub £350 price seems reasonable and in line with other cameras that have similar specifications. You do get a lot for your money, although enthusiasts wanting RAW or a hotshoe may want to spend a little more and get the FZ30.

VERDICT

With a standout lens, fast response times and Mega OIS, the FZ5 has a lot to shout about. And enhancements to the LCD and the inclusion of manual focus improve an already good camera. It's a shame there is no RAW mode and noise can be bad at higher sensitivity levels; but as a consumer's – rather than a professional's – camera, it is recommended. **WDC**

the *scores*

FEATURES	Specifications, controls	18
DESIGN	Build, handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE	Metering, focus etc	18
IMAGE QUALITY	Sharpness, colour etc	16
VALUE	Based on RRP	17

86%

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LEICA D-LUX 2

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back view

The D-Lux 2 has a clean layout and a back dominated by the large LCD. The overall design is very 35mm

top view

In keeping with the conventional looks, the D-Lux 2 has a traditional top plate, though old cameras don't have a flash

side view

The slim camera has little to show on the side, except the SD card door and wrist strap lug

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

Leica D-LUX 2

One for the traditionalists and yet bang up to date

Tested by *Jamie Harrison* **£550** www.leica-camera.com

The Leica D-Lux 2 has traditional looks and offers widescreen 16:9 format. Furthermore the famous red badge is sure to appeal to gentlemen of a certain age, or bank balance.

FEATURES

Unlike most compacts, which offer a 4:3 image ratio, the Leica D-Lux 2 offers widescreen 16:9 format, primarily to add compatibility to the ever increasing range of Widescreen TVs. Because the camera was developed by Panasonic, and in fact is almost identical to the Lumix LX1, it is possible to take the card directly from the camera and view pictures via the SD on Panasonic TVs and DVD players. The camera still has an AV out socket for other brands.

The 16:9 format uses the whole sensor for imaging, and other formats are also available, both 4:3 and 3:2, but these use less of the sensor area, so a smaller file size and pixel count results.

In other ways, the camera is, for a compact a decent tool, with manual and shutter and aperture controls. Furthermore, they're in 1/3 stop increments, unlike some cameras which just offer a choice of two apertures. There's also the simpler Program, Auto and scene modes.

And, as a Leica-branded/Panasonic-built camera, there has to be Optical Image Stabilisation, which is essential given the limited ISO of 80 to 400.

DESIGN

If you're a fan of traditional camera design then the Leica D-Lux 2 will appeal. This looks like a mini 35mm camera, with protruding lens and detachable lens cap (remember those?). The layout is nice, with a good screen and well-placed controls. The metal shell has a matt finish which is also very attractive and feels quite nice, if a little slippery, so hold tight unless you want to see £500 crashing to the ground.

PERFORMANCE

The choice of AF options and drive speeds is always welcome, and the camera is no slouch in terms of speed. Once the nippy AF has locked on, shutter lag is good, while startup is pretty nippy, but remember to take off the lens cap.

VALUE

This is a tricky one. For the same price you could buy a DSLR. But it won't have a red badge on it. Leica is a luxury brand, so expect to pay more. If the badge is not so important, then the Panasonic LX1 version is the preferable choice.

VERDICT

A gem of a camera to use, a real photographer's model. Both the looks and handling are quite traditional, but the 16:9 sensor offers something a bit more unusual.
However, it is expensive and it's let down slightly by the underexposure and noise. **WDC**

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1.65in 16:9 format CCD 8.4MP eff
- **LENS** 28-112mm f/2.8-4.9
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 60-1/2000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** M, A, S, P, 14 Sc, Mov
- **ISO** Auto, 80-400
- **FLASH** Auto plus 6 modes
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in, 207,000 pixels
- **OTHER** 30fps Mov, SD, JPEG, RAW, TIFF, Image Stabilisation
- **POWER** Li-Ion
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 105.7 x 58.3 x 25.6 mm/220g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
Lovely design, 16:9 format, great handling, overall image quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Image noise, problems with exposure in low light conditions

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	18
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	19
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	18
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	16
VALUE Based on RRP	16

87%

up against

PANASONIC LUMIX LX1

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

image quality

On a computer monitor, 16:9 images look fantastic. Images are sharp and the Mega OIS system is fool-proof. Colours are rich rather than accurate, but still nice. Exposure is slightly under, especially in low contrast or dim conditions. Also, noise is evident from ISO 200. Good overall performance though.

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The wide angle and extended aspect ratio is fun
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SONY CYBERSHOT DSC-T9

6 mega pixels **3**x zoom

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back view

Dominated by the 2.5in 230,600pixel LCD, the T9's controls are, by necessity, clustered on the right hand side of the camera's back

top view

The top-plate houses the shutter release button, additional on/off button and the camera shake reduction mode button

side view

The MemoryStick Duo card slot and InfoLithium cell are housed beneath a sliding sprung door that springs out when you slide it open

Sony Cybershot T9

Sony's Cybershot T9 comes under our penetrating gaze

Tested by *Joel Lacey* **£330** www.sony.co.uk

It is perhaps some years since I could honestly have described myself as slim, but that is the only description that fits the narrow dimensions of this pocket rocket from Sony's Cybershot range.

FEATURES

Like many of its forebears, the T9 features a hologram focusing aid that complements one of three selectable focusing patterns in one of four focusing modes. Exposures are similarly flexible as long as you don't select the fully auto mode where the menu system, perhaps understandably, shrinks down to virtually nothing in order not to frighten the technophobic user.

DESIGN

Design is perhaps the be-all and end-all of the T range of Cybershots, which is a shame, as I found the sliding front door on/off switch to be a little easy to turn to the on position, especially when stored in a pocket. Otherwise the design is an elegant one, fusing seemingly solid metal and glass into a minimalist form – at least from the front. The design is a little busier on the back as you do need some controls even for a sophisticated point and shooter like this one.

PERFORMANCE

The focusing system is sure-footed and delivers accurate results. It is perhaps a little on the slothful side, and it isn't always clear where the near focus limit of the non-macro setting is, so time can be wasted in shooting near subjects. The image stabiliser works, to a limit, and I found it oddly more worthwhile when shooting very long exposures (over 1/2 second) than when trying to capture outdoor scenes at, say, 1/15sec. In terms of exposures, they were generally spot-on, but I found there to be a massive shift in colour between the images where flash was used and those where no flash was used. The flash shots were much, much warmer, and a good deal more pleasing for it.

VALUE

There's usually a premium for cameras bearing the Sony label, and this is at the pricier end of the 6MP spectrum in point-and-shoot models. You do get quality for your money, though. Image processing is spot-on and the build quality is fabulous, so whilst the cost may be higher, the value proposition is not diminished.

VERDICT

This is not your average humdrum point-and-shoot model, neither will it set the world alight from a features point of view, but it does what it is supposed to very well indeed and its results make it one to consider, though it's quite expensive. **WDC**

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in CCD (5.75 x 4.29mm) 6.0MP
- **LENS** 6.33-19mm (38-114mm equiv) f/3.5-4.3
- **SHUTTER SPEED** 1-1/1000sec
- **ISO** Auto, 80-400
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Auto, P +10 scene
- **FLASH** Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in 230,600 pixel LCD
- **OTHER** 640x480 @30fps Video, MS Duo PRO
- **POWER** Lilon cell
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 90 x 55 x 20.5mm/ 160g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
Slimline build and fuss-free usage make this an attractive proposition for the newer user. Excellent AF and exposures improve the quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Menu system can be confusing and the slide-down door could be easily activated accidentally when carried in a pocket

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	16
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	16

83%

image quality

The T9 delivered all that you would expect from a 6MP model of this kind. Colours are vivid in good light, although they benefited from a burst of flash for colour oomph in lower light levels.

Flash shots are full of colour and detail
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up against

FUJIFILM FINEPIX Z2

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CANON IXUS WIRELESS

5 mega pixels **3 x zoom**

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back view

The usual Ixus controls are shown on the right hand side of the back of the camera, whilst to the left of the 2in LCD is a small curved slit that houses the blue 'wireless in use' LED

top view

The top-plate houses only the on/off switch and the shutter release button, which is surrounded by the zoom control

side view

A tiny strap lug sits beneath a sliding panel that hides the USB and AV out sockets

quick *specs*

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in CCD (5.75 x 4.29mm), 5.0MP
- **LENS** 5.8-17.4mm (35-105mm equiv) f/2.8-4.9
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 15-1/15000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P +10 scene
- **ISO** Auto, 50-400
- **FLASH** Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
- **VIEWFINDER** Optical, real-image zoom finder
- **MONITOR** 2in 118,000 pixel LCD
- **OTHER** 640x480 @30fps Video, SD, WiFi
- **POWER** Li-Ion cell
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 99 x 54.5 x 21.5mm/130g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE:
Super-speedy wireless printing. Reliable Ixus performance and handling combined with a broad if not comprehensive specification set to choose from

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
The wireless file downloading only works with wireless-equipped XP computers, not networks or with any other OS

the *scores*

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	16
VALUE Based on RRP	16

83%

up *against*

NIKON COOLPIX P2

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

Canon IXUS Wireless

The new Canon Ixus is (partially) wireless

Tested by *Joël Lacey* **£390** www.canon.co.uk

First there was irDA, then Bluetooth. Now WiFi (or 802.11b) has hit the consumer digital camera market. Going wireless means you don't need to carry all those cables around, which in principle is A Good Thing. You also get a blue light that flicks on when you engage the system, which to my mind is much the best thing about it.

FEATURES

Without the wireless bit, the Digital Ixus Wireless is, well, a digital Ixus. It has a range of auto modes, 640x480 pixel 30fps movie capture and a 15-1/1500sec shutter speed range. There's the usual flexible focusing and exposure options, a range of white balance settings, flash modes and a 2fps continuous shooting option. On the wireless side, the camera can send files to a wireless equipped PC running Windows XP with Service Pack 2, but not to any other computer, which seems a little stingy. But the really good bit is that the camera comes with a wireless print adaptor that lets you print to PictBridge-equipped Pixma and Selphy printers. You simply plug the adaptor into the printer, then select the printer from the camera's menu and send the image you want to be printed. Obviously you need to be relatively close to the printer but not as close as you would with a wired connection.

DESIGN

Design and Ixus are virtually synonymous, but I'm not wild about silver on silver printing and whoever came up with that concept should get a good dry slap. I spent ages searching through the menus and functions before realising the continuous shooting selector had literally been hiding beneath my nose on the four-way controller.

PERFORMANCE

You pretty much know what you're going to get from an Ixus, and the Wireless did not disappoint, except in its inability to pick up the BBC World Service.

VALUE

Perhaps letting the camera work as a wireless NAS (network attached server) storage device might make more sense than merely adding connectivity for one type of operating system. This being the case, I think the camera is a little pricey for anyone not owning a Canon printer that is running XP/SP2 computers to bother with at this price.

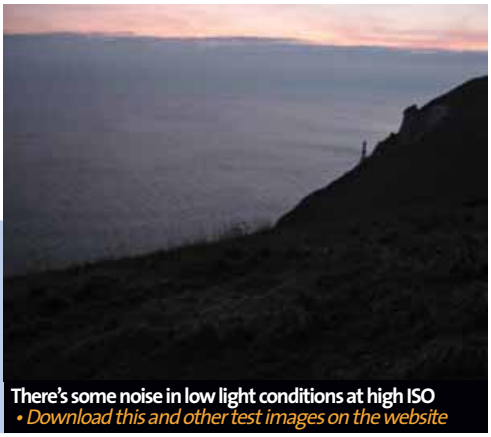
VERDICT

Technology marches on, but you can't help but wonder whether this is a solution looking for a problem rather than a product specifically designed to meet the needs of a large market. Nice enough camera, forget the wireless stuff though. **WDC**

image *quality*

In bright sunshine the Ixus Wireless performed very well. As light levels dropped, so did the overall quality. Pictures are sharp enough, although in an early evening shoot at Beachy Head the results were really very noisy indeed.

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support



There's some noise in low light conditions at high ISO
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SONY CYBER-SHOT S600

6 mega pixels **3 x zoom**

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back view

The 2in LCD is reasonable and the camera has the increasingly rare optical viewfinder. Otherwise the layout is functional

top view

The S600 is quite a chunky model, as can be seen. The top plate holds just the power and shutter release buttons

side view

Power comes from a pair of AA batteries, held behind this door, alongside the small MemoryStick Duo Pro media card

Sony S600

This Sony boasts an impressive sensitivity range

Tested by *Jamie Harrison* **£160** www.sony.co.uk

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in Super HAD CCD (5.75 x 4.29mm) 6MP
- **LENS** 5.1-15.3mm f2.8-5.1 (31-93mm equiv)
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 1/8-1/2000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Program, Auto ±2EV
- **ISO** 80-1000
- **FLASH** 4 modes up to 7m
- **VIEWFINDER** OPT
- **MONITOR** 2in LCD, 85,000 pixels
- **OTHER** MS Duo Pro, MPEG VX
- **POWER** 2x AA, Sony Stamina supplied
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 99 x 52 x 36.8mm/ 181g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
High ISO 1000, wide 31mm lens, reasonable price for a Sony.

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Noise at ISO 1000, bland design, plastic body and general chunkiness.

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	15
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	16
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	17

82%

up against

OLYMPUS MJU 600

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

On first look the Sony Cyber-shot S600 is one of those run-of-the-mill cameras that are functional but bland but it does have a couple of special features that makes it stand out.

FEATURES

The camera has a good 6 million pixels, for me the upper limit for a half-decent digital camera. Most people don't need many more, and WDC has noticed problems with cameras with more pixels on such a small sensor. There's nothing out of the ordinary with the 3x zoom either, except it's a Carl Zeiss branded lens and the fact that the wide angle starts at 31mm – pretty wide for a reasonably priced compact. On the back is a two-inch monitor, again fairly standard in today's terms. As a Sony model, of course, there is also the MPEG Movie VX function, offering video recording for the duration of the memory card up to VGA at 30fps.

Exposure options are fairly average, as a quick look in the specification box will tell you. But a closer look will show something more unusual: sensitivity of up to ISO 1000. Apart from Fujifilm and Ricoh, there are no other cameras that come close, especially in this price bracket.

PERFORMANCE

The S600 isn't packed with much to confuse or intimidate; there's little to get creative with. Most of the camera is automatic, making it ideal for new users, though it may not be the best option for the enthusiast. Where it does well is in timing, with a quick start up, reasonably fast shot-to-shot time, and little shutter lag.

DESIGN

Sony compacts have always followed a certain design brief, and though we have seen more aesthetically pleasing models in the T series, this style of design works for Sony and it sells millions. Indeed, other manufacturers have made similar looking cameras. I find it bland, but it's functional and well laid out, if not a little chunky.

VALUE

Sony has always been a blue-chip brand, and the fact it has the Sony name on the front means people will happily pay more. However, considering the name, the output, and the extra features, the S600 is pretty good value.

VERDICT

Despite the high ISO and wide lens, the S600 is still a middle-of-the-road camera. It's not horrible, but it's not a stand-out model. If you want a reasonably priced camera for family snaps, the S600 will perform nicely; if you want more, look elsewhere. **WDC**

image quality

There are WB options, EV compensation and so on, but most people would use the camera's judgement on its JPEGS. Colour and exposure is reasonable, sharpness is good, if a bit overprocessed, and noise at the lower ISO range is good. At the higher sensitivity noise increases, but at least it offers it.

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OLYMPUS MJU 700

7 mega pixels **3**x zoom

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back view

The large screen dominates the back of the camera, with small but easy to use controls spaced down the right side

top view

The wedge shape is evident; only the shutter release and power button spoil the Mju's smooth, swooping lines

side view

The thick end of the wedge houses a cover that hides the mains power/USB socket, the wrist strap lug and on the base, the flip-out cover of the battery/ memory card compartment

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

Olympus Mju 700

Stylish, ultra-compact 7.1MP weatherproofed camera

Tested by *Doug Harman* **£230** www.olympus.com

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.3in CCD, 7.07MP Effective
- **LENS** 6.5-19.5mm (37-111mm equiv) f3.4-5.7
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 1/2 – 1/1000th sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Auto, P, 23 scene modes
- **ISO** Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
- **FLASH** GN 7
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in 115,000-pixel TFT LCD
- **OTHER** xD Picture Card, 19.1MB internal storage, 640x480 video @ 30fps, Pictbridge, Histogram, Framing lines, Guide Mode
- **POWER** LI-42B Li-ion battery pack with charger included
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 94.8 x 56 x 20.4mm/103g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
Compact, price, lightweight and compact, weatherproofing, large LCD screen, excellent exposures, anti-shake mode, good colour rendition, many scene modes

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
No optical finder, image shadow noise, slight lens softness, over compression in lower quality settings

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	19
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	18
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	17

88%

up against

SONY POWERSHOT W7

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

Built just like a small wedge-shaped slice of metallic pie, this new Mju is stylish and resplendent with its subtly curved metal face and it has weather proofing to withstand splashes.

FEATURES

The Mju 700's 7.1MP sensor will probably be top here, providing JPEG files of up to 20.3Mb, from 'as-shot' image files. The 23 scene modes provide comprehensive settings including three Underwater modes (though the camera is NOT immersible, this is for underwater housings) and a Behind-glass setting. Some of the scene modes use Olympus' proprietary BrightCapture Technology: neat processing tricks to improve snaps. Blocks of nine pixels are treated as 'super pixels' with the values averaged out, in theory reducing noise and improving colours. There are two metering modes: ESP (matrix) and spot, plus the usual run of white balance presets. Focusing is accomplished with Olympus's iESP TTL contrast detection AF system.

DESIGN

The wedge-shaped body is attractive and lends itself to one-handed operation, but that gives it the propensity for camera shake. However, the 700 does boast an anti-shake setting. Menus are comprehensive and can be accessed in various ways depending on the mode in use; there's a neat 'guide' mode that sets the camera for you depending on the chosen setting. All the camera's controls, while small, are easy to use, as is the 2.5in LCD. It's very bright, usable in brighter conditions to boot, but could be improved with an anti-reflection coating.

PERFORMANCE

The metering really struts its stuff, even in complex lighting situations. Colour rendition is natural and focusing, while a tad awkward in macro or super-macro settings and in low lighting, works well in brighter conditions. The lens is a tad soft for my liking however. There's also some barrel distortion at the wide end of the zoom.

VALUE

I looked twice at the price, given the high-resolution sensor and sheer level of techno-sophistication. Given the overall performance and its specification, the Mju 700 is certainly good value.

VERDICT

SHQ mode is essential for larger prints. If you want to be really critical, image softness and slight lens performance problems reduce captured detail. However, 6x4in prints won't show most of the problems, and all the other great features of the camera outweigh the drawbacks. **WDC**

image quality

Issues with softness and slight barrel distortion aside, images look fantastic. But once you get a little closer things become less pleasing. There's distinct edge and corner softening; too much noise in shadow areas (even at low ISOs) and slight over compression in the HQ or lower settings.

Colour and white balance are hard to criticise
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CASIO EXILIM EX-S600

6 mega pixels **3 x zoom**

quick *specs*

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in CCD(5.75 x 4.29mm) 6MP
- **LENS** 38– 114mm f2.7-5.2
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 4– 1/2000 sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P, 32 scene modes
- **ISO** Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
- **FLASH** 0.4-2.8m (W)/ 0.4-1.4m (T)
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.2in TFT, 84,960 pixels
- **OTHER** SD, USB 2.0, 8.3MB internal memory
- **POWER** Lithium-ion
- **DIMENSIONS/ WEIGHT** 90x59x16.1mm/115g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE: Compact dimensions and build quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Some commands hidden in menus. Disappointing macro

the *scores*

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	16
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	16

83%

Casio EX-S600

Thin EXILIM bursting with scene modes

Tested by *Hannah Bouckley* **£280** www.exilim.co.uk

Measuring a mere 13.7mm, the EX-S600 includes a 6MP CCD capable of producing 14x11in 200dpi prints.

FEATURES The S600 boasts 34 BESTSHOT modes. Of these, 'Splashing Water' speeds up the shutter, and 'High Sensitivity' can attain ISO 1600 at full resolution. Anti-shake DSP reduces blurred images.

DESIGN Using a one-button/one function approach, the buttons are a little small, though there is plenty of space for your thumb. Manual features are adjustable through the menu. It would be quicker and easier to assign them to a button. The metal exterior is durable, though our 'Sparkle Silver' unit proved more smear than sparkle.

PERFORMANCE After an impressive sub-1.30sec startup, cycle times are a disappointing 5-seconds for 6MP best quality images (with focus lock). Using nine points, multi auto focusing is effective if not particularly quick. Macro mode focuses 15cm from the subject, taking several attempts to lock focus.

Despite a low resolution, the 2.2in LCD is twice as bright as previous models and copes fairly well.

IMAGE QUALITY Home users won't be disappointed; pictures are generally well exposed with strong colours, though highlights can be burnt out and excessive noise is visible at ISO 400 in shadows.

VALUE Competitively priced, but if you want control over shutter or aperture, there are alternatives.

VERDICT

The EX-S600 will suit anyone looking for an attractive compact, who isn't bothered about fast performance or manual control. **WDC**

FUJIFILM FINEPIX Z2

5 mega pixels **3 x zoom**

quick *specs*

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5in CCD (5.75 x 4.29mm) 5.1MP
- **LENS** 36– 108mm f3.5-4.0
- **SHUTTER SPEED** 4– 1/1000 sec
- **ISO** Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P, Auto, 5 scene modes
- **FLASH** 0.3m-3m (W)/ 0.6m-2.3m (T)
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in TFT 232,000 pixels
- **OTHER** xD, USB 2.0, 640x480 30fps movies
- **POWER** Lithium-ion
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 90x55.2x18.6mm/ 130g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE: High sensitivity of ISO 1600. Well built, with stylish white option

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Lack of features, particularly metering. Can't zoom in movie mode

the *scores*

FEATURES Specifications, controls	16
DESIGN Handling, ease of use	18
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	16
VALUE Based on RRP	17

84%

Fujifilm Z2

A nice but not radical update

Tested by *Hannah Bouckley* **£250** www.fujifilm.co.uk

Available in both black and white, the FinePix Z2 is the successor to last year's Z1, featuring Fujifilm's sixth-generation CCD.

FEATURES Alongside program and automatic are five scene modes including Natural Light, which turns off the flash to produce low light images. With the exception of exposure compensation, white balance and sensitivity, but there's no control over metering. Fujifilm has boosted the maximum sensitivity from ISO 800 in the Z1 to ISO 1600, for shooting in low light without flash.

DESIGN The Z2 is a slim 2cm deep, and the shutter and zoom are within easy reach, enabling you to comfortably operate the camera one handed. The single-shell metal body is tough, if scratch prone.

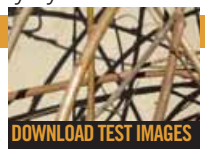
PERFORMANCE Boasting start-up times of under a second, the Z2 is a nifty performer, shutter lag isn't really an issue and shot cycle-times are under two seconds for 5MP JPEGs at Fine quality; I took nearly 50 successive images, only stopping because the card was full. Choose from multi or centre autofocusing which, while not particularly quick, is adequate, slowing down at telephoto.

IMAGE QUALITY Photos are adequate, but can be a little soft. Exposures are fine, though the Z2 struggles in high-contrast scenes, with evidence of burnt-out highlights.

VALUE Considering the limited feature set, the Z2 seems a little pricey. However, it is very stylish.

VERDICT

Decent point and shooter with good design and some great features, particularly the ISO. **WDC**



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NC

SPECIFICATION	28/30
BUILD	17/20
HANDLING	18/20
PERFORMANCE	26/30

89% AP's RATING

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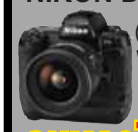

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COREL DRAW X3 p46
GRAPHIRE 4 STUDIO XL p46
XS DRIVE MP3 p47
ICORRECT EDIT LAB PRO 5 p48
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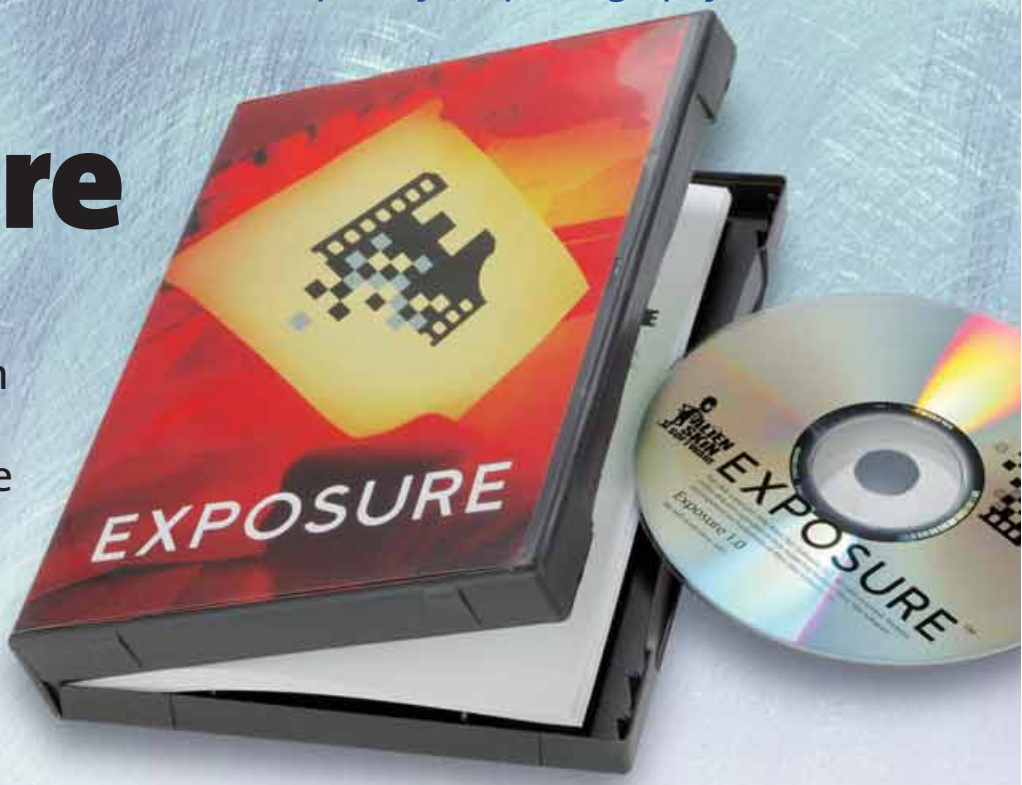

Exposure

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Joël Lacey dreams of film and finds his dreams come true with Exposure

TYPE: Image editor **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** Win 2000, XP, Mac OS 10.3.8, Adobe Photoshop CS, PSP 9.0+, Fireworks MX

With film manufacturers disappearing or scaling back, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get the look of film by shooting on film. Ironically it is now much easier to get the look of film on digital, thanks to those lovely people from Alien Skin. In effect, Exposure is a colour, contrast and grain adjustment method that works as a plug-in to the more sophisticated image-manipulation programs on the market.

Different films obviously record the world in varying ways, and the images captured are also affected by the method of development. Exposure creates the illusion of a given image having been shot on film by changing the hue, saturation, graininess and contrast. So you can choose to have your images recreated as if they had been shot by 'dreamy teen' calendar photographer David Hamilton on 40-year-old GAF slide film. Alternatively you can add the pep of Fuji Provia's colourful view of the world in razor-sharp detail (assuming, of course it was there in your original image – Exposure's not that clever).

The program even allows you to choose cross-processing effects such as slide film in C-41 developer or print film through E6 chemicals. Given the difficulty of doing this in real life, I wonder what fashion photography students will find to do with their new-found free time.

Throw in a hatful of other effects, and the ability to manipulate the individual elements of a film's tonal and colour reproduction and you have that rare example of a useful piece of software that is fun to use.

On the black and white side, you can choose a range of fast film looks (such as Ilford's ISO 3200 speed film) for that reportage effect.

All these effects are chosen from a very comprehensive menu of options on the left-hand side of a pane that appears when you launch the plug-in. I spent my first hours with the program checking whether my memory of the featured films' characteristics matched the programs; perhaps more accurately I should admit it was the other way round. On the whole, I must say the two tallied surprisingly often, and there is certainly a huge choice.

Before

After

VERDICT

Certainly I can see a market for this among those who would seek to recreate history. Want to add a second gunman to a still from the Zapruder Footage of JFK's assassination? Want to see how you'd look as an adult in your school photograph without the colours mis-matching? Exposure's your man. I'm sure there are some serious conservational applications of this software, but I think the main use will be conversational, and it's none the worse for that.

the *scores*

85%

16 features
18 ease of use
17 performance
19 results
15 value

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
Variety of film types; The effects possible; The whole idea!

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
The price is a bit steep given its, in some ways, limited functions

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Energiser 15-minute charger

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www.energizer-eu.com

Rechargeable batteries are great, but how often do you only remember they need recharging just before you go out on a shoot? With Energizer's 15-minute charger, the charging time from flat to charged for the four dedicated 2200mAH batteries was 15 minutes and five seconds. The fan-assisted charger may warm batteries slightly more than ordinary chargers, but on a cold day, that's no bad thing. The charger comes with a mains adaptor and car cigarette lighter connector for when you're on the move. It's not cheap, but better than running out of power at a crucial moment. **88%**

Sigma lens cloth

£5.99

www.sigma-imaging-uk.com

Smeary or dusty lenses can rob your images of contrast and thus resolution and colour saturation. Lens maker Sigma has addressed this with the launch of its micro-fibre lens-cleaning cloth, which allows you to clear dust from the front of your lens without scratching the all-important coating. **85%**

Corel *Draw X3*

Vincent Oliver looks at a Graphics Suite with photo abilities

TYPE Graphics Suite **REQUIREMENTS** Windows XP, 2000 **£329** www.corel.co.uk

Corel has launched CorelDraw Graphics suite X3. At the heart of the suite is CorelDraw, a vector-based illustration application. CorelDraw X3 includes: Power Trace X3; Photo-Paint X3; Capture X3; and Picmantec's RawShooter. Here we will look at Corel's photo-editing application, Photo-Paint X3.

Photo-Paint has a great selection of image-editing tools including Mask selection, Image sprayer, Red-eye removal and Effect brush, to name a few. Some of the tools are hidden in fly-out menus, but they can be easily accessed via shortcut keystrokes. The tools' behaviours and control are superb: they are fast and responsive, especially when using a graphics tablet.

Corel has bundled plenty of creative effects and filters to add that extra touch to your pictures. The Lens Flare filter leaves Photoshop's one looking weak. However, the default brightness settings are a bit overpowering for most users. Fortunately, Corel offers control on all aspects including precise placement, brightness, size, falloff, rays, streaks, colour etc.

The Image adjustment lab is a 'one-stop shop' for image improvement. From this palette you can adjust colour temperature, tint, saturation, brightness, contrast, highlights, midtones and shadows.

The Cut out lab is based on Corel Knockout 2, and makes easy work of cutting out parts of an image. It has a similar feel to Photoshop's Extract filter (it made a better cut-out than Photoshop using the same test image).

The hints and tips palette changes with the current tool and is a real bonus for people who are just starting to work with digital photos.

Channel mixer is regarded as the ideal tool for creating b&w images from colour files, but for some unknown reason Corel has omitted the single most important feature, a monochrome option. You can

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The Graphire 4 Studio XL is one of the best Wacom tablets we've seen. It has been redesigned with a silver metallic finish and a conveniently placed pen holder. A pair of fast access buttons have

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'Corel has bundled plenty of creative effects and filters to add that extra touch'

preview each channel (RGB) in monochrome and apply the settings, but once you press the OK button the image reverts to a full-colour image – not the best implementation of the channel mixer that I have seen.

By default, images open at 100% magnification, but you can customise the application settings so images will open to best fit, or any other magnification you choose. Photo-Paint has many options for customising the application including an easy-to-use Colour management interface – just select profiles that are associated with the various devices, such as the printer or monitor.

VERDICT

An excellent photo-editing application which is unfortunately no longer available as a standalone package. It fits in well as part of the CorelDraw X3 suite, but I suspect the next upgrade may include PaintShop Pro which Corel acquired from JASC last year. This could be Photo-Paint's swan song – I hope I am wrong.

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
Image-editing tools; Plenty of effects; Hints palette

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
Lack of any image browser; Not available as standalone

the *scores*

18	features
17	ease of use
18	performance
17	design
17	value

87%

been added which can be programmed to perform frequent tasks such as switching tools. There is also a scroll wheel to allow on-screen scrolling or zooming. Comfortable to hold, the pen now has a pair of buttons that replicate right- and double-click commands. A 'rubber' at the top of the pen can be used as an eraser. The Studio version contains additional software on top of the standard version. Overall, the Graphire 4 is high quality, easy to use and a more natural way of working with images than a mouse. **85%**

XS Drive *MP3*

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XS Drives seem to come and go at a tremendous pace, with each one offering more storage, smaller units and newer features. This is one of the smallest yet, and is XS Drive's answer to the iPod. Not as slim as the latest-generation Apple players, the XS drive has the advantage of accepting any media card, except Smartmedia. This adds necessary bulk to the unit, but at 19mm thick, it's hardly a brick. The units come in a choice of capacities, 20GB, 30GB and a future 40GB.

Transferring a 1GB card to the unit takes around 8 minutes, so it isn't the fastest unit in the world, and it offers download and upload to PC via USB 2.0 High speed. It also includes 64MB of flash memory, offering up to 10 hours of continual MP3 playback. The Hard Drive can store much more music, but you need to copy the files to and from the flash memory to play and gain the battery life. I found this far less convenient than other multimedia players. There's no image-viewing option, just a blue LCD with an unattractive font. Similarly, the menu and operation is effective but dull and the five-way controller is flimsy.

The unit is certainly small and convenient, but is basic and artesan rather than cool and funky like some of its competitors. **75%**

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Shozu

FREE

www.shozu.com

Mobile photography is on the increase, with more and more camera phones with ever-better imaging capabilities. Wouldn't it be great, though, if we could take a picture on a camera phone and email it to Granny or post it onto the web for all our friends to see?

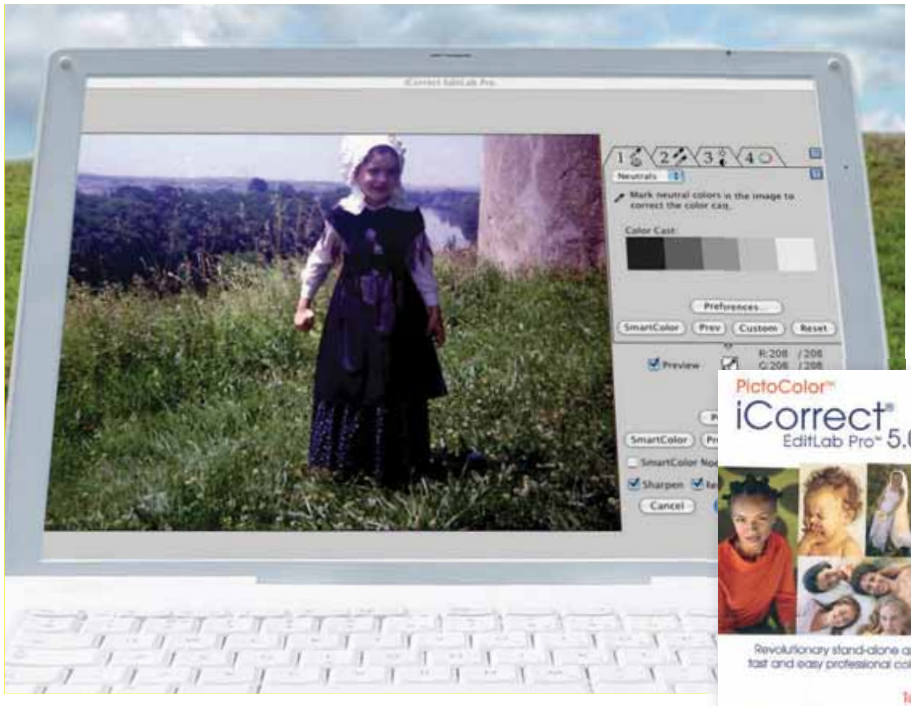
With Shozu, there's nothing to stop you. This free software can be downloaded to your Symbian OS-based mobile phone when you register on the website. There's a full list of compatible phones on the site.

You also need a photosharing site such as Flickr, and the number of compatible sites is increasing. Once you have signed up, you can send images you take direct to your photosharing account for viewing on a web, along with tags and titles. And, even better, that image can also be emailed to anybody in your phone's contacts list (as long as it has their email address, obviously).

Because the email is actually being sent via the web, not via email roaming, costs are cheaper, and you can even add messages to your pictures.

The sign-up is simple, the application works very well, and a nice touch allows you to store your contacts on the Shozu site in case anything nasty happens to your phone.

It has transformed the way I use my cameraphone, especially with my family. Simply excellent. **90%**



'Edit Lab Pro adds a greater level of utility to a cheaper program'

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TYPE Colour-correction plug-in **REQUIREMENTS** Mac/PC

ICorrect comes as a plug-in or standalone that works in tandem with your main imaging program to provide a quicker previewable solution to many image problems. On launching it, the program's main screen shows the original image in a window with four tabbed boxes offering options as to what to do with it. Probably most useful for the less-confident imager is the SmartColor feature which can, at a stroke, correct exposure, colour balance, add sharpening and reduce image noise.

More sophisticated users can set up Edit Lab Pro to work as an automated Action to apply either pre-set or automatic corrections with one mouse click.

Edit Lab also allows you to make individual corrections to images using the preview panes. The first correction tab takes you to colour correction, either by selecting a neutral point or by using sliders. The next allows you to set the black, white and grey points. The third tab is for Brightness/contrast/saturation. Each of these three items is changed using a slider; you can see the effect of the change both by image preview and on a contrast graph. Finally there's the Hue selective edit tool. This allows you to affect an image only in a certain colour range as defined by you.

By working as a plug-in to so many programs, Edit Lab Pro means you can add speed and convenience to a high-end program or a greater level of utility to a cheaper program.

VERDICT

This is not meant as a direct replacement for an image editor but as an accompaniment. The key to its utility is the speed and accuracy with which you can make a series of adjustments to an image without leaving your favourite imaging program.

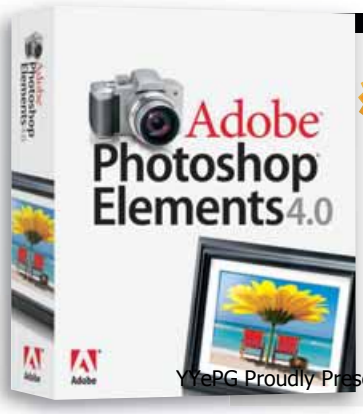
the scores

86%

17 features
17 ease of use
18 performance
18 results
16 value

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
It makes complex adjustments very simply and well

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
The standalone application is not really enough to stand alone



Adobe *Photoshop Elements 4.0 for Mac*

Adobe has finally released a Mac version of the latest Elements software. The new version is written in Universal Binary code, so is compatible with the new generation of Intel processor Macs as well as G series chips.

There's not much difference between this and the Windows version, which we reviewed last November, except it has that classy Apple Aqua interface and, more

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

Polarising filters *Roundup*

Hannah Bouckley examines a selection of polarising filters

B+W

£61.50

This is the heaviest filter here. It is positioned between two levels of optical glass and, to protect against humidity, the edges are sealed. B+W claims the Multi Resistant Coating is harder than glass to offer resistance from scratches, water and dirt. Results are good, with natural colours.

tech *specs*

MAKE: B&W
TYPE: Kaseman Polarising Filter
DIAMETER: 52mm
COATED: Yes
PRICE: £61.50 (£44 +vat)
CAMERA TESTED: Nikon D50

www.robertwhite.co.uk
Tel: 01202 723046

the *scores*

86%

HOYA

£73.20

The Hoya Pro1 Digital is the only filter here designed for digital cameras. The frame is constructed from Black Almite, with a thin depth to help prevent vignetting. To reduce the effect of lens flare and ghosting, the filter includes Digital Multi-Coating (DMC). Again good results, but slightly cool colours.

tech *specs*

MAKE: Hoya
TYPE: Pro1 Digital Filter
DIAMETER: 52mm
COATED: Yes
PRICE: £73.20
CAMERA TESTED: Nikon D50

www.intro2020.co.uk
Tel: 01628 674411

the *scores*

84%

JESSOPS

£23.99

Jessops own brand is budget priced; the pay-off is a lack of protective coating, so the filter is more susceptible to damage. It does improve the saturation of blue skies, if slightly less than some of the others, while highlights look flat. There seems more risk of fringing with this one too.

tech *specs*

MAKE: Jessops
TYPE: Circular Polariser
DIAMETER: 52mm
COATED: No
PRICE: £23.99
CAMERA TESTED: Nikon D50

www.jessops.co.uk
Tel: 0800 652 6400

the *scores*

81%

SIGMA

£49.99

Sigma provided its EX Wide Multi-Coated Circular PL filter. The filter is thin to reduce the effect of vignetting.

Using the filter, blue skies are noticeably stronger, while retaining the contrast between highlight and shadow areas. Excellent results generally, especially with Sigma EX lenses.

tech *specs*

MAKE: Sigma
TYPE: EX Wide Multi-Coated Circular PL
DIAMETER: 52mm
COATED: Yes
PRICE: £49.99
CAMERA TESTED: Nikon D50

www.sigma-imaging-uk.com
Tel: 01707 329999

the *scores*

85%

TIFFEN

£59.25

The Tiffen filter is positioned between two pieces of optical glass. This filter provided the biggest transformation of the original sky colour. Skies are slightly darker, producing a deep contrast between highlights and shadows. More likely to confuse the meter with darker results.

tech *specs*

MAKE: Tiffen
TYPE: Digital Ultra Clear
DIAMETER: 52mm
COATED: No
PRICE: £59.25
CAMERA TESTED: Nikon D50

www.tiffen.com
Tel: 01869 343835

the *scores*

84%

Best-selling photo-editing app arrives on the Mac

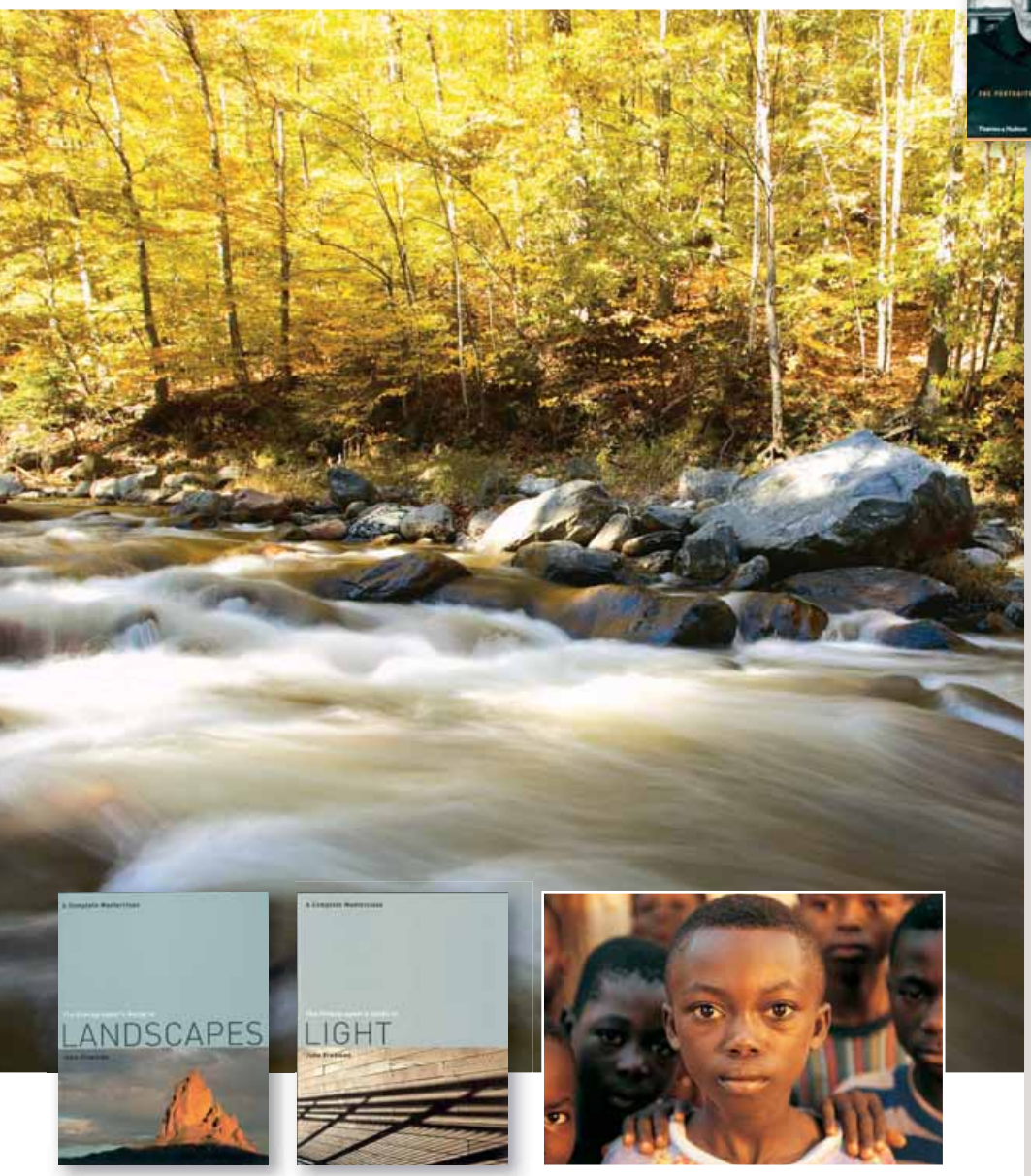
£65 www.adobe.co.uk

importantly, doesn't include the Album module available on the PC version. It does come with Adobe Bridge, albeit a slightly stripped down version than that found in CS2 applications. Bridge will allow you to catalogue and browse images by folder, date, subject or keywords, and much more. It is also very useful when coupled with Adobe Camera Raw software, which is also included along with the DNG converter.

Elements is very similar to Photoshop, but simpler to use, as can be seen by the software's interface which has just a quick-fix window and an advanced option. The tools are all easily accessible, and a collection of tutorials and step-by-steps help even the most inexperienced user to perform what used to be complicated tasks. Even better, the quick and easy selection tools and automated features perform many of the more tricky and advanced tasks found in Photoshop.

Easy to use, the software is ideal for beginners and experienced Photoshop users. Lighter and faster than Photoshop, it might lack some advanced features but 90% of the features you will ever need are here. **91%**

YaPG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support



The Photographer's Guide to Landscapes

£16.99 John Freeman
Published by: Collins and Brown

The Photographer's Guide to Light

£16.99 John Freeman
Published by: Collins and Brown

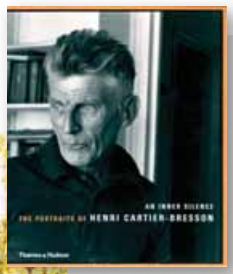
Renowned photographer John Freeman's latest photographic twosome tackles the popular genre of landscape, and utilising light in photography. Both books are split into three key areas: The Essentials, The Subjects and Further Techniques.

'The Photographer's Guide to Landscapes' begins by introducing different kit and basic camera functions. Different shooting conditions, such as spring, winter and the changing day are examined, along with types of landscape including deserts and the urban landscape.

'Light' starts by examining different types of light and how to use them, before offering advice on shooting various photographic genres in natural and artificial light.

Adopting a conversational tone suitable for novices, both tomes are crammed with inspiring photographs, though experienced photographers may bemoan the lack of shooting information. As a colourful, readable introduction to landscape photography and using light 'The Photographer's Guides...' are recommended. **90%**

YreG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

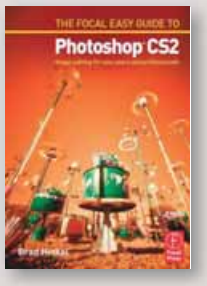


An Inner Silence – The Portraits of Henri Cartier-Bresson

£24.95
Foreword by Agnes Sire
Published by: Thames and Hudson

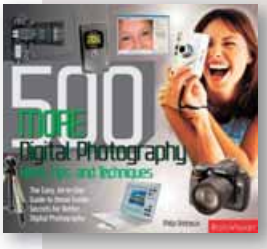
Published to coincide with first exhibition at the Foundation Henri Cartier-Bresson in France, this book comprises 97 tritone reproductions of some of his works. The photographs span his long career; from 'Cracow', taken in 1931, to 'Melanie Cartier-Bresson', captured in 1999. With the exception of a thought-provoking introduction by philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy analysing key photos, the majority of the book is pure imagery, of some of the 20th century's iconic figures, including Marilyn Monroe, Christian Dior and Truman Capote. **87%**

The Focal Easy Guide to Photoshop CS2



£14.99
Brad Hinkel
Publisher: Focal Press

Despite the description 'for new users and professionals', this isn't a book for a beginner, missing basic elements such as an explanation of the tools. Despite useful information, it is rather dull and uninspiring; some of the screen shots are fairly small, making them tricky to see clearly. While the accompanying website includes a selection of useful PDF tutorials that can be downloaded, ultimately there are other more accessible books with better illustrations. **78%**



500 More Digital Photography Hints, Tips and Techniques

£12.99
Philip Andrews
Published by: Rotovision

This is the successor to Andrews' 2004 bestseller. Following the photographic workflow – from capturing different types of shot, to photographic techniques, editing and output – colour-coded sections ensure it is easy to follow. Packed with photographic examples, a wealth of information is available. While perhaps not suitable for advanced users, novices will find it indispensable. **85%**

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iiyama
ProLite H1900-B
£551 www.iiyama.co.uk

Samsung
SyncMaster 930MP
£414 www.samsung.com/uk

NEC *MULTISYNC 90GX2*
£311 www.nec.co.uk

THE GROUP TEST

LCD MONITORS

Ian Burley asked six monitor manufacturers to supply sub-£600 LCD flat panel displays. Variety, it turns out, is the spice of life. So is it time to retire that big and bulky CRT display?

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Eizo *S1910*
£421 www.eizo.co.uk

Fujitsu Siemens
Scenic View P20-2
£433 www.fujitsu-siemens.

Sony *SDM-HS95P*
£399 www.sony.co.uk

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NEC Multisync 90GX2

Aimed at computer gamers, the 90GX2 also offers a photo mode

£311 www.nec.co.uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1280x1024dpi **DVI?** Yes **15 PIN VGA?** Yes **VIEWING ANGLES** 170°, 155° **DIMENSIONS** 412.5x407.3x203MM **WEIGHT** 6.5KG

It was a bit of a surprise to receive the NEC MultiSync 90GX2 as it's marketed as a gamer's display, but it does offer a photo display mode. The physical design is very attractive, and a novel mini-joystick on-screen settings display controller certainly helps make the 90GX2 easy to set up. PC utility software access to display configuration is also provided, and the USB connection is complemented by a four USB hub, with two ports side-mounted and two on the underside of the unit. The 90GX2 has a deep-black glossy screen, which is great for tonal range, especially for shadows, but monitor positioning can be a problem because of reflections. But the biggest problem with the 90GX2 is the very directional nature of the screen. Even viewed head on, there is a noticeable fall-off towards the edges of the screen. Colours are also subdued, with a slight brownish bias to grey tones.

VERDICT

A great-looking, attractively priced, design and deep-black glossy screen are all very well, but the NEC MultiSync 90GX2 falls down on display quality because of its poor viewing angle characteristics. WDC

the scores

82%

13 Display quality
18 Features
17 Ease of use
19 Build quality
15 Value

WHAT WE LIKE:
Controls, deep blacks

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Very directional display, subdued colours

Sony SDM-HS95P

Sony's design gurus have left their mark on this monitor

£399 www.sony.co.uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1280x1024dpi **DVI?** Yes **15 PIN VGA?** Yes **VIEWING ANGLES** 170°, 170° **DIMENSIONS** 435x418x217MM **WEIGHT** 6.0KG

The Sony SDM-HS95P has all the typical hallmarks of a Sony design statement. By using a novel spring-loaded 'tail' and curved 'chin' arrangement, this imposing monitor's backward tilt adjustment can be made with the lightest of touches and yet it remains as solid as a rock. However, the design sacrifices height and forward tilt adjustment. The panel itself is an example of Sony's X-black glossy surface, and does a better job of retaining uniformity and viewing angle consistency than the NEC 90GX2. However, the non-shiny screens of the others tested are still superior in this respect. After calibration, the SDM-HS95P returned well-saturated colours and neutral greys, though blues were slightly cyan, while yellows and greens were a bit on the citrus side. The high-contrast screen did make stepping in tonal gradations more apparent and the screen was tiring to view for long periods. No USB connectivity at all is provided and so no PC-control of monitor settings is afforded.

VERDICT

If you want a monitor to impress your friends, the SDM-HS95P has the presence to do that, but in terms of features and display quality, it's fairly middling and rather expensive to boot. WDC

the scores

81%

16 Display quality
15 Features
17 Ease of use
19 Build quality
14 Value

WHAT WE LIKE:
Style

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Expensive, only average display quality

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Samsung 930MP

It's not just a monitor, it's a TV too

£414 www.samsung.com/uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1280x1024dpi **DVI?** Yes **15 PIN VGA?** Yes **VIEWING ANGLES** 178°, 178° **DIMENSIONS** 434x437x198MM **WEIGHT** 5.9KG

The remote control in the box gave the game away – the Samsung SyncMaster 930MP is actually an LCD TV, but its LCD panel is higher specification than your average LCD TV, and you can connect to your PC via DVI or VGA at a native resolution of 1280x1024. The unit itself is an imposing yet attractive design, with a deep 'chin' incorporating a pair of speakers. An easy-to-navigate compass-style OSD controller is situated in the centre of the monitor, just below the screen itself. Both an analogue TV and FM radio tuner are integrated and you can also connect video components, like camcorder or video recorders, etc, via standard connectors, including a SCART port. Only tilt-back adjustment is available. Picture quality wise, the 930MP acquitted itself well, with good directional uniformity and tonal range. A warmish bias was noted and green hues were a bit under-saturated, but nothing serious.

VERDICT

It's hard to argue against the 930MP as it's competitively priced for its feature set and offers so much without any serious compromises. More monitors should be designed like this! WDC

the scores

90%

17 Display quality
19 Features
18 Ease of use
18 Build quality
18 Value

WHAT WE LIKE: TV/monitor integration, display uniformity

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Perhaps needs to be widescreen

Eizo S1910

Eizo S1910 gives no-frills quality at a premium price

£421 www.eizo.co.uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1280x1024dpi **DVI?** Yes **15 PIN VGA?** Yes **VIEWING ANGLES** 178°, 178° **DIMENSIONS** 404x406x205MM **WEIGHT** 6.9KG

Eizo has a reputation for very high technical standards, though a traditional criticism has been that you do not get a lot of accessory features for the price. The S1910 continues this reputation, proving to exhibit the brightest and most neutral colour display after having been calibrated. However, for the money, I'd like to have seen the resolution upped to 1600x1200dpi. The display can be connected to your PC via USB, but there is no integrated hub. The USB connection is only provided for PC-control of monitor settings via a provided software utility. This is just as well, because the black-on-black buttons on the display bezel are invisible in anything but the brightest light. There is a good range of vertical and tilt adjustment and the unit doesn't hog your desktop. This is an expensive monitor for the feature set, but undoubtedly good quality display-wise.

VERDICT

The Eizo S1910 is a very safe bet if you're not worried about price and fancy features, but you shou look elsewhere if value is a concern. WDC

the scores

85%

19 Display quality
16 Features
16 Ease of use
19 Build quality
15 Value

WHAT WE LIKE: Solid neutral display quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Expensive, hard-to-see controls

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Fujitsu Siemens P20-2

How about a 20-inch panel and 1600x1200 resolution?

£433 www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1600x1200dpi **DVI?** Yes **15 PIN VGA?** Yes **VIEWING ANGLES** 178°, 178° **DIMENSIONS** 400x444x277MM **WEIGHT** 9.2KG

Although we specified 19-inch panels, the Fujitsu Siemens Scenic View P20-2 actually sports a 20-inch display, and is the only monitor supplied that reaches 1600x1200 resolution. Despite the enhanced specification, the P20-2 is reasonably priced. You don't get a USB hub, but the display can be rotated for portrait-mode viewing and this is complemented by software control from the PC. This unit was alone in using a Z-arm support for the display. It provides the most flexible positioning options, but does consume more desktop depth. The P20-2's extra resolution certainly helped to subdue the harshness of panel dots when viewing sharp edged detail, although there was slightly more graininess to the display and less maximum contrast and brightness available. But with excellent viewing angle performance, overall, the P20-2 had the best display quality of the group if positioned in a room without over-bright ambient light.

VERDICT

Resolution of 1600x1200 makes a difference and the Fujitsu Siemens P20-2 has plenty of other qualities to tempt you, as long as you have the space to accommodate it on your desk. WDC

the scores

91%

18 Display quality
18 Features
18 Ease of use
19 Build quality
18 Value

WHAT WE LIKE: Display quality, resolution, value

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Monitor is big, slight graininess

iiyama ProLite H1900-B

Big and beefy, the iiyama ProLite H1900-B packs in all features

£551 www.iiyama.co.uk

TYPE Flat panel TFT LCD **RES** 1280x1024dpi **DVI?** Yes (2) **15 PIN VGA?** No **VIEWING ANGLES** 178°, 178° **DIMENSIONS** 430x414x241MM **WEIGHT** 9.0KG

Immediately you get the ProLite H1900-B out of its box it says 'professional' to you. There are no consumer frills to the heavy-duty design. It looks like it will last forever. Who needs speakers in a pro monitor? Well, there are none, but you do get a rotating screen for portrait mode display, a four-port USB hub, no less than two DVI ports and PC software control.

Image quality in native 1280x1024 mode is very good, though for less money you can get 1600x1200 panels now. If there is a criticism, there is a natural warm bias to the display after calibration, but plenty of adjustment options are available for you to dial that out if you wish. I had no problem with viewing angles and the screen is very uniform, corner to corner. Once again, why do monitor manufacturers seem to attempt to make their OSD controls on the bezel invisible – which is certainly so with the H1900-B.

VERDICT

The iiyama ProLite H1900-B is big and heavy, but makes a lot of sense if you appreciate professional requirements. Only the resolution is disappointing for the price. WDC

the scores

86%

18 Display quality
18 Features
16 Ease of use
18 Build quality
16 Value

WHAT WE LIKE: Solid build, features, display quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Resolution for the price, controls

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

THE FACTS

Quick cross-reference guide to the main features of each monitor

	EIZO S1910	NEC MULTISYNC 90GX2	IIYAMA PROLITE H1900-B	FUJITSU-SIEMENS SCENIC VIEW P20-2	SAMSUNG SYNCMASTER 930MP	SONY SDM-HS95P
PRICE (RRP)	£421	£311	£551	£433	£414	£399
NATIVE RESOLUTION	1280x1024	1280x1024	1280x1024	1600x1200	1280x1024	1280x1024
SIZE	19 inch	19 inch	19 inch	20 inch	19 inch	19 inch
DVI INPUTS	1	1	2	1	1	1
VGA INPUTS	1	1	–	1	1	1
SCREEN FINISH	Non-reflective	Non-reflective	Non-reflective	Non-reflective	Non-reflective	Shiny black
VIEWING ANGLE (VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL °)	178,178	155,170	178,178	178,178	178,178	170, 170
CONTRAST RATIO	1000:1	700:1	1000:1	700:1	1000:1	1000:1
RESPONSE TIME (GREY TO GREY)	12ms	8ms	12ms	11ms	Unspecified	12ms
HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
USB HUB	No	4 hi-speed ports	4 hi-speed ports	No	No	No
SOFTWARE CONTROL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
BUILT-IN SPEAKERS	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
ROTATING PORTRAIT MODE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

THE CONCLUSION

For me, the stand-out monitor in the group was the Fujitsu-Siemens Scenic View P20-2. Its slightly larger 20-inch panel and higher 1600x1200 resolution gave it an edge over the others, despite relatively lower brightness and contrast. A competitive price and bonus of a portrait mode rotating screen feature seals the win. Exactly why all the other monitors submitted were limited to 1280x1024, despite a generous price limit and the photo-use criteria, is interesting. A 19-inch monitor gives a good default text and window navigation size at 1280x1024, but this hasn't stopped laptop manufacturers producing even higher resolutions for smaller screens. Indeed, if you want really smooth photo display on an LCD screen, a high-resolution laptop is well worth considering. I still think a top-quality conventional CRT monitor beats LCD for photo-image display quality, but the option of being able to buy a CRT at all may be gone sooner than you might realise.

THE ADVICE

Two performance issues key for photographers include viewing angle and dot pitch. The larger the display or the lower the resolution, the more visible the dots will be, distracting from the subtleties of your photographic images. Surprisingly, all but one monitor submitted featured 1280x1024 native resolution, with just one offering 1600x1200. A poor viewing angle doesn't just mean the screen isn't easy to view clearly off-centre, but it can affect the apparent brightness and contrast of the perimeter of the display even when viewed dead centre. Look for a high contrast ratio to improve the smoothness of tonal gradations. Physical adjustment is important and several models tested do not offer different height configurations, though all will tilt backwards. A couple of panels we tested also offer a rotating screen to enable a convenient portrait-mode view. Unless you intend to play games or view video footage, don't worry too much about panel response times. All the monitors we looked at support the latest digital DVI interface, but most will also connect to a conventional 15-pin analogue VGA video output. It's certainly handy, if not essential, to be able to access the monitor's display settings using a software utility application on your PC. Some monitors offer built-in USB hubs, but you might be just as well off with a free-standing one. A monitor with a TV and even radio tuner built in could be a good thing.

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Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ7

6.37 Megapixels / 12x Optical Zoom

£300

Fuji FinePix Z2

5.1 Megapixels - 3x Optical Zoom

£199

Canon Digital Ixus 55

5 Megapixels - 3x Optical Zoom

£199

Kodak Easyshare P880 Zoom

8.3 Megapixels - 5.8x Optical Zoom

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£195

Nikon D50 + AF-S DX 18-55 mm ED
6.1 Megapixels - 3x Optical Zoom
£435

Olympus µ[mju:] DIGITAL 600
6.4 Megapixels - 3x Optical Zoom
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WDC Letters

SoundByte
Musings from the Editor

A Viable *Alternative*

So you decide to throw a party. You invite everyone you know, get a few positive RSVPs, lay on loads of drinks and hors d'oeuvres – and only one person shows up.

That's how it's been for Olympus since they launched the Four-Thirds system back in 2004. A new SLR standard, with a new lens mount, open to all, based on sound scientific principles. The trouble is, Canon, Nikon and Pentax have their own lens mounts with a large existing customer base, so there's no incentive for them to join it.

But finally the doorbell has rung and look who's at the door: Panasonic! And they've brought a friend with them in Leica. Now, with Sigma already at the punch bowl, there's enough for, if not a party, then a civilised gathering. And it's about time too.

Believe me, nobody in the photo industry wants to see an SLR market where Canon and Nikon are the only brands available. Not the retail trade, not the public, probably

'The new camera looks very interesting indeed'

not even Canon and Nikon. It's essential for photography that other brands find a decent niche, but Konica Minolta's recent withdrawal indicates that this is easier said than done.

Now Panasonic and Leica have thrown their weight behind Four-Thirds with actual products, its chances of creating a future for itself are greatly enhanced. And it helps that the L1 is different. Panasonic has been shrewd to avoid producing a 'me too' SLR, or trying to slug it out at the entry-level end of the market which Samsung has just joined.

Instead, they've produced a flagship model for the connoisseur, in the hope that this will gain them a level of respect and credibility on which they can launch more affordable models at a later date. The new camera looks very interesting indeed, and though we obviously haven't had a chance to test it yet (it's still at the pre-production stage) Olympus must be just as pleased as Panasonic at the reception it has been given so far by the world's press.

Something to say? Then drop us a line

Contact us at: What Digital Camera, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Tel: 020 7261 5323 Fax: 020 7261 5398 Email: wdc@ipcmedia.com

Unfair *Comparison*

From: Stuart McLaren

I was intrigued by your big test last month, a head to head between Canon's EOS 5D and the Nikon D200. With almost £1000 price difference between them, it was hardly a fair contest was it? Frankly I'd have been amazed had the verdict been the other way around. What was the point?

***Nigel replies**: In the professional and semi-pro market, price differentials (and this one is more like £700) are less relevant. Here were the latest mid-range, mid-price models from the two big guns, and we were curious as to which was the better of the two. One of the reasons for the Canon's higher price is its larger, full frame sensor, which costs more to produce that Nikon's APS-sized one. This was a chance to see how much difference the larger sensor makes to the picture quality, so in that sense it was a comparison of sensor technologies as well as the cameras themselves. Yes, the Canon's results were better, but the D200's were close enough to reassure readers that a full-frame sensor is by no means essential to achieve professional quality results.*

Where was *Canon?*

From: Ian Goldsmith

I was extremely disappointed by the Focus on Imaging show this year. I've been for the past three years but this year I was armed with my new Canon EOS 350D, and was hoping to try out some of the lenses on the Canon stand. But where was it? I can't believe Canon decided not to attend. Not only is this insulting to its customers (they don't want to talk to us) but it's a snub to the whole photographic industry. I'm also annoyed that the organisers of Focus kept Canon's absence quiet. Had I known, I

Letter *of the month*

this month's **STAR** prize

That's *technology*

From: Simon Isted

Now that LCD screens have become so big that there's no room for viewfinders, they've started bringing out touch-screen technology. Does that mean we'll soon lose the buttons too? Will the backs of cameras just be a big screen in a couple of years' time? What will come next? Voice-controlled cameras I suppose. Then we won't have to press anything – we'll just talk to the back of the camera to tell it what do do.

Nigel Atherton replies: *Screens are getting bigger, due to customer demand, and it's amazing how quickly we get used to them. Two-inch screens once seemed big but now look miserly.*

I like the idea of voice-controlled cameras though – what fun we could all have with those! We could go round switching other people's cameras on and off by shouting out the appropriate command. Or ruin their pictures by shouting 'Shutter priority, half a second!' just as they're about to take that hand-held shot. How about cameras that talk back to us? I can just imagine the new Canon Kubrick: 'I wouldn't take that picture if I were you, Dave'.

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wouldn't have gone. Aaah. Now I see why they didn't shout about it.

***Nigel replies**: Canon says that it plans to do more dedicated roadshows around the UK, which will give customers a chance to try their products and talk to Canon staff, but there have been no announcements yet as to when, where and how many they may be. I agree it seems an odd decision to pull out of the one big national photographic show – it isn't as though they're strapped for cash. To be fair to Focus , Canon's name was not on the list of exhibitors on their website – though I can see why you wouldn't have checked that. Like most people, you'd have just assumed they'd be there.*

Nudes *comeback?*

From: Percy Warnock

I see you've started printing nudes (John Freeman, WDC March). Is this a change of policy of did you sneak it past the politically correct police? I remember the days when photography magazines sold in hundreds of thousands, and there were glamour shots of pretty girls in every issue. Is this the start of a comeback?

***Nigel replies**: No. In those days a lot of people bought photo mags who probably weren't strictly interested in photography (teenage boys, for example) and this gave some photo mags an unfortunate reputation. Now, thankfully, it's purely about the photography. However, in my view nudes are just as valid a subject for the camera as any other, as long as they're handled in a tasteful, artistic way, as they have been by artists and craftsmen for centuries. We don't avoid nudes, and will publish them, if they're of a high standard, but they won't be there for the sake of it.*

WDC *Podcasts 1*

From: Harry Broughton

It was nice to see that you've joined the 21st century and started doing podcasts on your website. Your PMA broadcasts weren't bad at all, considering they were your first attempt. They brought more personality to the reporting than you manage through your written news, and were all the more interesting for that. Is this something you're going to do more regularly?

WDC *Podcasts 2*

From: Alan Moss

Hope you enjoyed the warm weather in Orlando while we were freezing over here, so don't expect any sympathy about what a hard stint Jamie and you put in at PMA!
I found the sound volume of your first podcast low, and had to set maximum volume on my PC. The dialogue style is good, but I think you should speak a little more slowly.

As an owner of a Panasonic FZ20, I was very interested in their new SLR but, while Jamie talked about the handling and features, he never mentioned the quality of the pictures.

***Nigel replies**: Glad you enjoyed our inaugural podcasts, which we'll be doing regularly. Yes, I do tend to speak too quickly, especially when I've got a lot to say and I've got one eye on the stopwatch! Sorry about that. I'll try to speak more slowly in future. As for the Panasonic L1, we saw a pre-production model. No one has got to use one yet, but we aim to be among the first to do so. (See Soundbyte, left).*

Web Forum *Chat*

RAW settings

***Posted by**:* Hotblack
Board: Digital Capture

I've been looking through old posts on RAW capture but I'm confused. I've started using RAW for 'serious' stuff (Jpeg for everyday). I use a Nikon D50 and try to get things as right in the camera as possible.

If I'm customising my 'Optimize Image' options (sharpening, contrast, saturation, colour mode), does this affect the RAW file or am I pi***ng in the wind? Some recent shots seem to have come out over sharpened. Some advice would be useful.

***Posted by**:* N Roberts

Depends on your settings. If you have everything defaulted to "As shot", then it should use your camera settings. But you can choose different values and try a variety of different settings until you find ones you're happy with.

***Posted by**:* Alex R

If you mean you're setting the degree of sharpening, saturation etc on the camera then you are indeed p***ing in the wind as these are all post-capture processing directives that tell the in-camera RAW conversion software how to convert the captured data to a Jpeg file. Other than being flagged in the file header, they don't alter the data that is written to the RAW file. Maybe if you use Nikon's conversion software the setting will do something (I don't know, I don't use Nikon) but Photoshop Camera RAW software ignores them.

If some of your shots are over sharpened it's happening when you do the RAW conversion. In PS CS/CS2 you can set the options in camera RAW to sharpen only to preview image but leave the converted image unsharpened. This is my preferred way of working since it allows you to use unsharp mask (with its better control) for the final sharpening.

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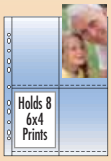

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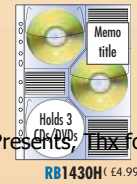

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What Digital Camera Techniques

This month we look at creative shutter speed techniques, retouching portraits and more. But first...

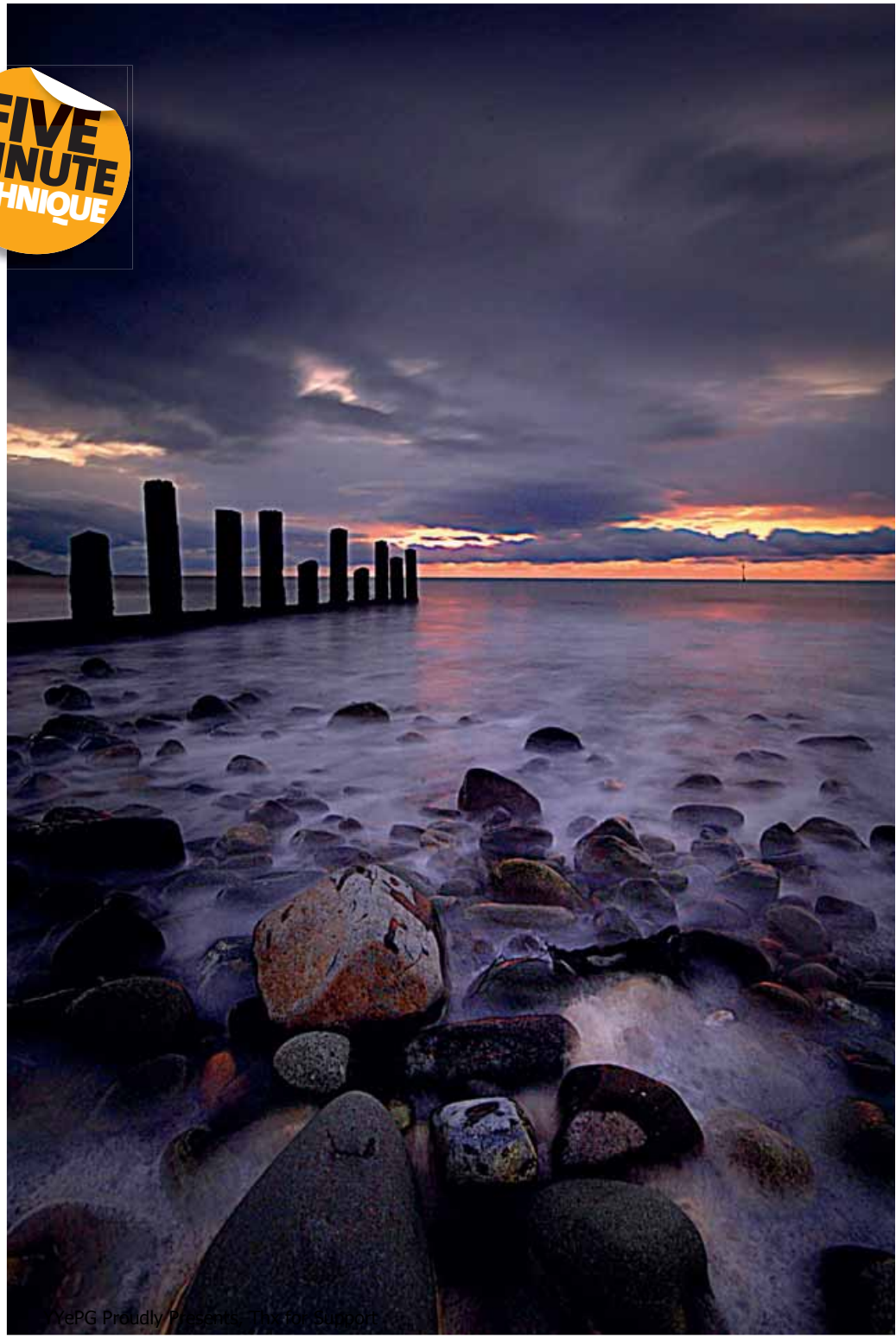
THIS MONTH'S TECHNIQUES

USE OF SHUTTER SPEED p64-69
TAKE THAT p70-72
SOUPED-UP PHOTOSHOP p74-76
HELP FILE p78-82
EVENING CLASS p84-85
DIGITAL SURGERY p88-91
PHOTOSHOP CHALLENGE p93-95

Slice of *Coast*

FIVE MINUTE TECHNIQUE

Photo Angela Joel
Camera Nikon D2X



Follow these top tips to create beautiful, evocative, coastal landscapes like this

- To get the best light arrive at your location at first light, or at dusk. First light offers the advantage that fewer people will be about, but involves getting up while it's still dark.
- Look out for a viewpoint that offers some foreground interest, whether it be groynes, boulders, beach etc. A low viewpoint to give your foreground greater emphasis and help to lead the viewer's eye into the picture.
- To create an exaggerated sense of perspective and a greater sense of drama, try using a wideangle lens. Choose a lens with a 35mm equivalent focal length of 28mm or wider.
- Mount the camera on a sturdy tripod and take the trouble to make sure that the horizon is dead level. Use a spirit level if you have one.
- Take a meter reading from a mid-tone area of the scene and make a test exposure. Check to make sure that detail is retained in dark shadow areas such as dark boulders. If in doubt shoot an additional exposure at half to one stop under your metered setting.
- Select an exposure combination that will give you a small aperture (for maximum depth of field) and a slow shutter speed (to blur the motion of the waves and create an ethereal look). A shutter speed of 1/4 sec or slower should be used.

TIP! *If it's too bright for long exposure times, fit a neutral density filter on the lens to cut down the light level. An ND grad filter is also useful for darkening a bright sky.*

LEARN: Motion blur filter • using slow shutter speeds • panning

John Freeman's *Guide to...*

Slow *shutter speeds*

Main images © John Freeman

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Having a camera that will let you vary the shutter speed can greatly enhance your photography and add movement to pictures, especially at slow speeds, says **John Freeman**

On many cameras, especially SLR models, there is the facility to adjust the shutter speed. Far from being irrelevant – after all, it's all too easy to set the camera to auto and let it get on with choosing the shutter and aperture settings – the shutter can create effects that will add dynamism to your pictures. On most cameras with this facility, the shutter ranges from about 1 second up to 1/1000th second; at the very top of the range, shutter speeds can vary from 30 seconds up to 1/8000th second.

On the camera there may be another setting, B, which stands for 'bulb'. If you set the shutter dial to this, the shutter will remain open for as long as the shutter release button is depressed. Thus very long exposures can be taken. However, when using this setting with digital cameras, you need to be careful with any areas of extremely bright light, as these can do permanent damage to the sensor.

Creating *movement*

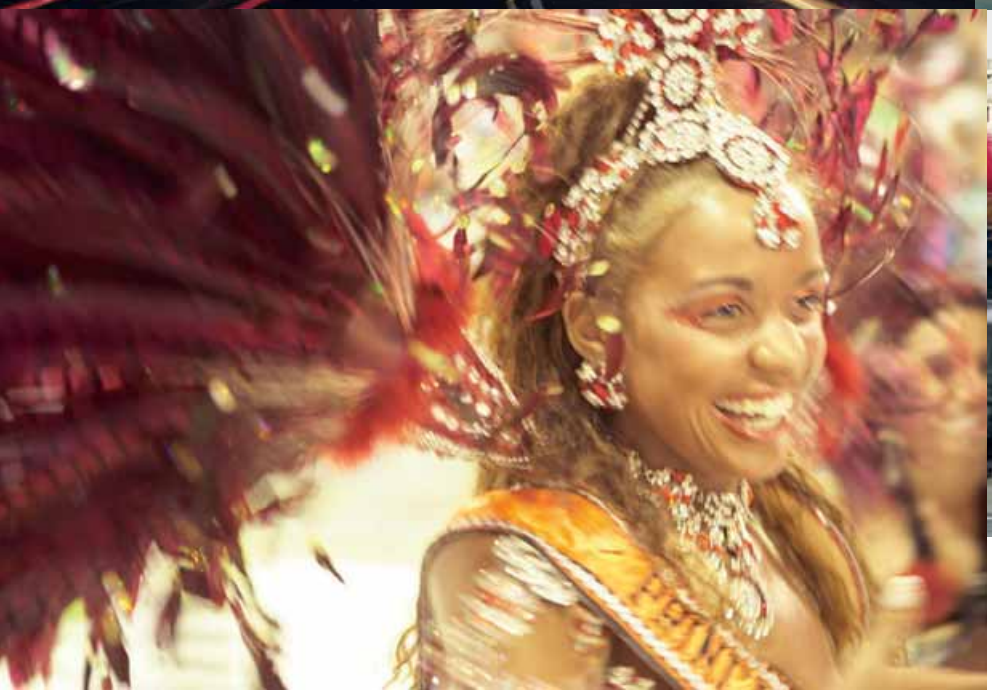
I took this shot for a recruitment agency to illustrate the rat race. I chose a viewpoint above the platform and, with the camera on a tripod, I waited for the rush hour train to arrive. I set the shutter at 1/8sec and took a series of shots as the commuters disembarked. At this speed they are distinguishable as people, but blurred, giving a sense of great movement as they appear to scurry off to work!

Top *Tip!*

Fairgrounds make great subjects for slow shutter speed shots. The mass of colourful, moving lights record as blurred streaks of colour. Ferris wheels are a particular favourite. Experiment with different shutter speed settings for the best results.

Night *time*

A slow shutter speed is also preferable when shooting at night. Look at this picture of Harrods, the famous store in London. The foreground of the shot is taken up by the road that passes in front of the shop. I could have waited until later when there would have been hardly any traffic. However, I have used this to my advantage by recording the trails of light from the passing vehicles to fill up what would otherwise have been a dead area. In this case I used a shutter speed of one second.



Slow *sync flash*

Another benefit of using a slow shutter speed is when you are using flash. If you combine a situation where this is a certain amount of ambient light with flash and a shutter speed of 1/15 or 1/8sec, your subject will be mainly sharp, but the surrounding area of the background will have a degree of 'movement' in it, due to camera shake, as is the case here of a participant in the carnival at Rio.

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On *parade*

For this picture of marching soldiers I placed the camera on a rigid surface (I used a wall but I could have used railings, a parking meter or a traffic bollard, for instance) and chose a shutter speed of 1/15sec. This meant that the soldiers have come out very slightly blurred but has given the distinct impression that they are on the move, whereas the shot taken at 1/125th second (above) has a static quality and looks boring by comparison.

Panning

If you use a fast shutter speed when photographing a moving subject the picture will appear to be quite static because the action will be 'frozen'. In certain situations this can mean that it is difficult to see whether the subject is moving or is standing still. A far better technique is to pan the camera and use a slower shutter speed, such as 1/60sec. You then move the camera (pan) in line with the moving subject, then take your shot when it is directly in front of you. The result will mean the subject is sharp but the background is blurred. If however, the subject has vertical movement when you are panning the camera in a horizontal direction, it too will be unsharp. This vertical movement can be seen in the dog's legs, and adds even more to the impression of speed and action than if everything had been recorded pin-sharp, which would have been the case had I been using a fast shutter speed.

photoshop

How to simulate motion *in Photoshop*

The effect of movement can be easily achieved on your PC in Photoshop in just a few steps. The principle behind the technique is to blur the image with the motion blur filter and then restore the focal subject's sharpness, creating the illusion of a speeding background.

STEP ONE
With your image open, draw a path around your focal subject that you wish to retain as sharp. Make sure that you get in tight around the edges and don't miss out bits.

STEP TWO
Make the path a selection from the paths palette and then copy and paste the subject onto a new layer.

STEP THREE
Hide the new layer for a moment. On the original layer, use the clone tool to erase as much of the focal subject as possible. (This is because when the blur filter is applied, we don't want any of the focal subject seeping out into the image.)

STEP FOUR
Select the motion blur filter from the filter menu. In this example we chose Radial / Zoom. Apply the filter to the entire image.

STEP FIVE
Reveal the top layer containing your focal subect, use the hue & saturation command to make final colour tweaks.

Daily Presents, Thx for Support

Moving *photographer*

I took a ride in a Tuk Tuk while I was shooting in Bangkok. This is easily the best way to get around the city and I wanted to give an idea of what the ride was like. The vibration is quite something. To begin with I shot at a fast shutter speed but this really did not convey the hair-raising ride that I was taking. When I slowed the shutter down to 1/15th of a second, as shown in the picture on the right, the reality of the ride was so much better portrayed.

Moving *train*

For this shot of an express passenger train I chose a deliberately low angle and selected a 1/8sec shutter speed. As soon as the train was alongside me I took the shot. The front of the train which was nearest to me is now blurred but the rear of the train, although moving at the same speed, appears sharp and helps us define exactly what it is. If I had used a slower shutter speed the whole train would have been blurred and it would have been difficult to distinguish what type of train it was.

Useful Gear for *Slow Shutter Speeds*

AN SLR OR ADVANCED COMPACT

You need a camera which offers a good range of manually controllable slow shutter speeds, preferably beyond a second in duration.

TRIPOD

This will keep the camera steady so that the parts of your shot that aren't moving will remain sharp.

CABLE RELEASE

Often when using slow shutter speeds the camera can move – even when it is on a tripod – when you press the shutter release button. A cable release will ensure a shake-free action.

FLASHGUN

Essential for slow sync flash shots. A dedicated unit offers more precise exposure control.

NEUTRAL DENSITY FILTER

If you're shooting in bright daylight it isn't always possible to use a slow shutter speed without overexposing your shot. A neutral density filter placed over the lens will help to cut down the required exposure.

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Top *Tip!*

For great moving water shots head for the coast. The constant ebb and flow of the tide makes for a great subject for slow shutter speed effects.

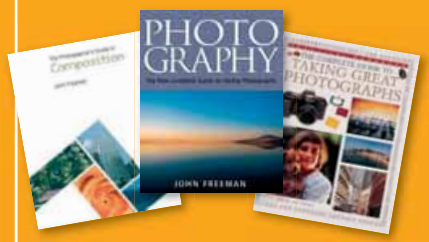
Moving *water*

I had to clamber down a ravine to shoot this waterfall. I took shot 'A' with a shutter speed of 1/500sec. This has virtually 'frozen' the water and resulted a very static shot. By having the camera on a tripod to keep it steady I then chose a shutter speed of 1/4sec. This gives a feeling of movement to the water by blurring it. It now seems to be cascading over the rocks with more force, and it also appears to add a degree of tranquillity to the overall composition.

John's *Top Tips*
use of shutter speed

1. Use the shutter priority mode on your camera. This lets you select the shutter speed while the camera takes care of selecting the aperture.
2. The slower the shutter speed, the more indistinct will be your subject. If you use an extremely slow speed your subject could disappear altogether.
3. If there is too much light use the lowest ISO setting or fit a neutral density filter to the lens.
4. Although you can place your camera on a wall or brace yourself against some suitable object to keep the camera steady, there is no substitute for a good tripod.
5. Remember that when using shutter speeds in excess of 1 second the drain on the camera's battery can be considerable; so make sure that you have a reserve battery.
6. Long exposures can result in grainy or noisy images. If your camera has it, set the noise reduction mode to reduce this.

JOHN *FREEMAN*



John's clients include some of the country's biggest companies. He has illustrated well over 100 books, covering subjects as diverse as cookery, health, travel and home interiors. He has also sold more than a million copies of his glossy photography manuals, of which he has written more than a dozen.

John also sells fine art photography from his own gallery in London's prestigious Oxo Tower. He is fully digital, and mainly uses a Canon EOS 1DS SLR with a variety of lenses. John's website is at:
www.johnfreeman-photographer.com

For more John Freeman books see our website whatdigitalcamera.com/books

Photo © Nigel Atherton

Take That!

Can't get everything in shot? Then why not take a sequence and join them together? **Nigel Atherton** shows how to create a panorama

Panoramas are one of photography's oldest sub-genres. No sooner had Fox Talbot poked his primitive lens through the leaded window of his Lacock Abbey home, than inquisitive pioneers began taking a wider view of the world.

Panoramas are now big business, and there are dozens of specialist cameras (both film and digital) designed specifically for the format, but they're expensive. Fortunately they're by no means essential. Taking a series of shots and joining them together is something that can be done on any camera but digital technology makes things a lot easier.

The technique required at the taking stage is much the same whatever the medium, but it's afterwards, at the joining stage, that digital demonstrates its superiority. Creating seamless panoramas in a traditional wet darkroom is complex, time consuming and, well, quite stressful. But thanks to software technology, the computer simplifies the process. In fact it's almost automatic.

Some compact digicams even offer an automatic stitching feature which joins your shots up for you as you download them onto the PC.

In this tutorial though we're switching off the auto-pilot and going full manual, using a normal camera and the Photomerge feature found in both Photoshop and Elements.

1 What you will need

You can shoot panoramas on any camera, even a disposable one, as long as your technique is right. The single most useful accessory (indeed it's vital if you want professional looking results) is a tripod. Preferably one with a pan and tilt head, because the only plane in which you want to move the camera is a horizontal pan movement. Pan and tilt heads allow you to lock off the tilt and swing movements, ensuring that every shot remains level.

Ball and socket head tripods are better than no tripod at all, but extreme care must be taken to ensure that the camera is not moved up or down, or twisted off the horizontal, between frames. Some ball heads come with a separate pan movement, independent of the ball head, which would be a better choice.

A spirit level is a useful means of ensuring the tripod is level, but if you don't have one take extra care when setting up the camera, especially if the horizon is visible. If your camera has a viewing grid in the viewfinder or on the LCD use this to ensure it's dead straight.

Stitching the images together later on the PC can be done using any image editing application that supports layers, but one which offers a panoramic stitching feature will make your life a lot easier. Later versions of Adobe Photoshop have included the Photomerge feature, which does a great job. Adobe's consumer editor, Photoshop Elements, has also included Photomerge from the beginning. Many other editng applications, including Corel PaintShop Pro, also offer panoramic stitching.

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This wall in Brighton offers a place where street artists can legally practise their craft and attracts many aspiring graphic artists. Shot on a Nikon D2X, with a 24-85mm lens

2 Finding a *viewpoint*

The most obvious instinct when setting out to shoot a panarama is to head for the top of the nearest high vantage point. But while these can work some of the time, pictures where everything is at infinity can be a bit boring. Look for viewpoints which will provide points of interest at several points in your panorama, not just the middle. Picture your scene as a finished panorama, and work out where you want the start and end points to be.

3 Camera *orientation*

One of the first decisions to make is whether to set the camera up in the vertical or horizontal orientation. The latter will require fewer shots to get from one end of your scene to the other, but the resulting panorama will be quite narrow. By tilting the camera through 90° you'll have to take a lot more shots to cover the same ground but the resulting panorama will be much less 'thin'. Your choice will depend on the subject, and the final shape you wish to create.

4 Setting up *the camera*

Take meter readings from several areas of the scene to determine the optimum exposure. Switch to manual exposure mode and apply your chosen exposure combination (preferably selecting a small aperture). This is important, because if you use an auto mode the exposures may vary between shots and it will be difficult to create seamless joins later. Likewise, set your lens to manual focus at your desired focal length (testing it across the width of the scene first) and do not zoom between shots. Your goal is shot-to-shot consistency.

5 Taking the *pictures*

With the camera mounted on the tripod, and all movements except the pan locked off, start from one side of the scene (eg the left) and take your first shot. Make a mental note of a point in your scene which falls on the right side of your first frame. Pan to the next part of the scene and, finding that landmark, make sure it is to the left side of your second shot. This will ensure that the pictures overlap, which is essential when joining them together later. There should be around a 20% overlap on each shot. Repeat until you've covered the intended area.

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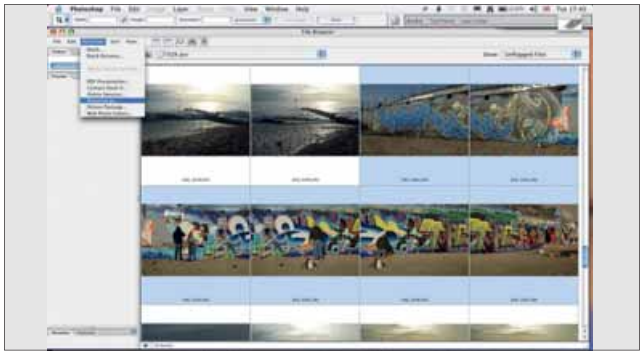
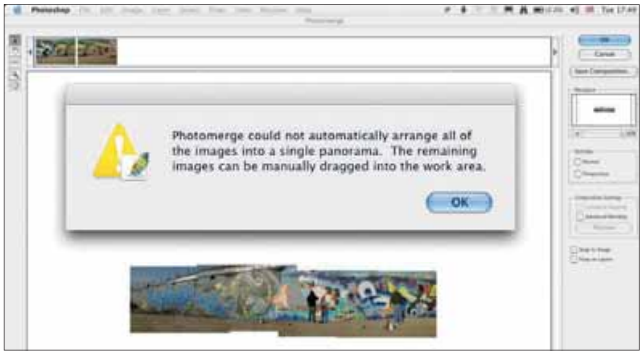


6 Select *Photomerge*

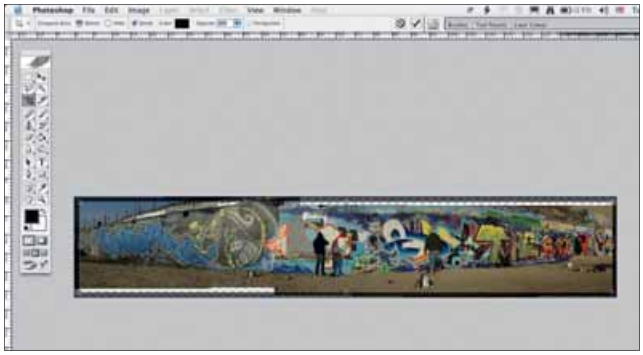
Having downloaded your images it's time to stitch them together. Using the Browser in Photoshop, highlight the required images, then go to the Automate menu and select Photomerge. (In Elements you can access it via the File menu (**File>New>Photomerge Panorama**) in either the organiser or Edit modes.

If your RAM is limited consider scaling the images down in size, to save memory. This panorama comprises six 35MB images. The 1GB of RAM on my Mac managed to cope (just) but ran slow.


Photomerge could not automatically arrange all of the images into a single panorama. The remaining images can be manually dragged into the work area.
OK

7 Building *the panorama*

Photomerge places all your images in a 'filmstrip' along the top, then drags them one by one to the workspace to join them together. It looks for common elements in adjoining images and superimposes them – hence the importance of overlapping your shots at the shooting stage. Sometimes Photomerge struggles to find the perfect alignment, especially if you have not used a tripod and the perspective has changed fractionally. In this case you'll get a warning, like this, and you'll have to drag and align the shots manually.



8 Tidying up *the image*

Once your images are joined together, you may find you have slightly jagged edges along the top and bottom, where the camera was fractionally higher for some shots than others. Simply drag the crop marquee over the panorama to cut these off. The panorama will at this point be a layered Photoshop file, but it can be flattened and saved as a TIFF or JPEG file.

9 Alternative *perspective*

When photographing linear scenes those areas at either end of the panorama will inevitably appear smaller than those in the middle because they're further from the camera. Clicking on the 'Perspective' button stretches the edges to correct this, albeit at the loss of some image quality. The curved 'Cinemascope' style edges that it produces can be cropped off.

TOP TIPS

Crowd *Control*

Shot on a Nikon D2X, with a 24-85mm lens (set to 24mm) and five separate exposures of 1/60sec at f/8. Combined in Adobe Photoshop CS. (Photo: Nigel Atherton)

'One of the problems of photographing in public places is that of crowds getting in the way. But because panoramas are composed of several images it is easier to exclude them from your picture. This image of the promenade on Hove seafront was taken on a busy Sunday afternoon and, although there were a lot of people about, I only needed one section of the scene to be clear at a time. So when the passers-by cleared the area in front of the shelter (on the left) I shot that, and then I waited for the next section to clear, and so forth. It took probably 10-15 minutes to shoot the five pictures this panorama was made from, including all the waiting time. I deliberately kept a few people in the shot, but not too many to cause clutter.

I also used my two kids as 'bookends' at either end of the panorama to personalise it but, thanks to the fragmented nature of panoramas, I could also have used the same child at both ends!'

Do you have an interesting technique you'd like to share? Then send it us at the address on page 21

SIGMA

OUR WORLD

The morning catch delivers a feast for the eyes.
ED KASHI: Born in 1957 in New York. Earned a degree in photojournalism at Syracuse University. Photographed in more than 60 countries. Received numerous awards for a wide range of work. Photographs appeared in National Geographic magazine, among many other publications.
Photo data: SIGMA 15-30mm F3.5-4.5 EX DG ASPHERICAL lens, 1/125 second exposure at f9.

ED KASHI SHOOTS THE WORLD WITH A SIGMA LENS

A brilliant platter of fish seen in the dawn mist provides a catch for the discerning photographer as well as the diligent fisherman. The SIGMA super-wide-angle zoom lens opens all the way out to 15mm to capture the youth's cheerful smile shining through. Aspherical lens elements correct distortion and all types of aberrations, contributing to excellent optical performance. The lens is particularly designed to reduce the flare and ghosting that tend to occur when using digital SLR cameras. The DF (Dual Focus) mechanism helps ensure that autofocus is precise and easy to handle whilst a minimum focusing distance of 30cm/11.8 inches is available throughout the entire zoom range. A built-in petal-shaped lens hood is highly effective at shielding the lens from extraneous light.

FOR DIGITAL

Available for SIGMA, Canon, Nikon-D, Konica/Minolta and Pentax digital SLR cameras.

A super-wide-angle zoom lens that starts at 15mm and is excellent for both digital and 35mm SLR photography.

SIGMA 15-30mm F3.5-4.5 EX DG ASPHERICAL

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www.sigma-imaging-uk.com E-mail: sales@sigma-imaging-uk.com

dream MACHINE

In this the first part of a new series, **Philip Andrews** identifies the main hardware components that slow down the performance of Photoshop, and lays out the specs for building your own Photoshop Dream Machine

As image makers we spend much of our time concentrating on how to produce the best pictures possible and playing with editing techniques. After all, creating fantastic photos is the reason we got into this game.

But it leaves precious little head space to consider what goes on inside the boxes that drive our favourite imaging software. Couple this with the fact that it is pretty difficult to understand how all the different technology components affect the running of everyday tasks, and you have a situation where many Photoshop users settle for machines that are more suited to net surfing or word processing than pixel pushing. This three-part series will take the mystery out of the process and give you the inside track on how to build your own 'Photoshop dream machine'.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX?

To get started let's take a simple look at some of the bits and pieces that lurk inside the box that we call 'the computer'. For some readers this may be covering already familiar ground, but for the rest of us it will provide a good context against which we can explore the roles that each individual component plays in Photoshop efficiency. In the ensuing series parts, we will look at each of these components in turn and examine your purchase options, new emerging technologies and, most importantly, what speed gains are to be had in choosing one setup over another.

PROCESSOR (CPU)

It seems that every six months or so, the major chip manufacturers produce a new version of their front line processors. These chips are the engine of your computer and, as such, determine how quickly your machine will complete most tasks. For many years processors have been categorised in

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terms of their cycle or clock speed and generally speaking, the higher the number, the faster and more powerful the chip. At present the fastest processors are rated at 3800 Mhz (3.8 Ghz), and compared to the 12 Mhz 'Turbo' chip that drove my computer in 1989, these new processors just fly. But despite the long-held tradition of using clock speed to equate Photoshop performance, processor speed no longer tells the whole story. Some of the best chips for intensive image-editing tasks (filtering in particular) are not those with the highest clock speeds but rather those with the new dual core architecture. These chips work like twin processors, churning through pixels changes more efficiently than a single core chip at a higher clock speed. Both Windows and Macintosh environments now boast the option of using dual core processors. If you have been keeping an eye on the media you will know that Apple now has a range of machines based on dual core Intel chips. As yet, not all Macintosh software has been adapted for the new architecture (this includes Photoshop), but when this occurs you should see some real speed gains resulting from both the high processor speed of these chips as well as their new dual core architecture.

MEMORY (RAM)

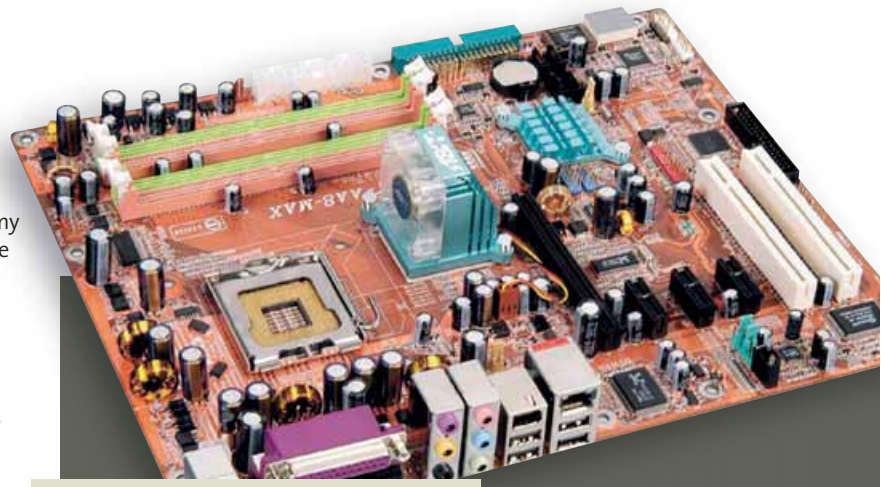
RAM memory is the short-term memory where the Photoshop program, image data, undo steps and history states are kept during the editing and enhancement process. It is different from the memory of your hard drive or DVD disk, as the information stored in RAM is lost when your computer is switched off. For efficient photo editing, the amount of RAM your computer has is just as important as processing power. In general terms you should buy as much memory as you can afford. The amount usually supplied with off-the-shelf systems is sufficient for most word processing and spreadsheet tasks, but is usually not enough for good-quality digital imaging.

STORAGE (HARD DISK)

The sad fact is that digital imaging files take up a lot of storage space. Even in these days where standard hard disks are measured in terms of hundreds of gigabytes, the dedicated digital darkroom worker will have little trouble filling up the space. But the disk requirements for Photoshop users are a little more complex than just ensuring that they have enough photo storage space. As Photoshop is such a memory-hungry beast, the program cleverly uses part of the hard disk as 'fake memory' when the software runs out of conventional RAM.

GOOD *advice*

"...diagnose what is slowing your system down and then fix the technology at that point. If memory is an issue get more RAM, if slow drives are a problem then replace with faster ones or use a RAID setup to improve access performance. If filtering and other high CPU intensive activities are slowed down, then get a faster processor." **Peter Kerney, Intel**



MOTHER *board*

Issues such as bus speed and chipsets are often considered, by the 'technology phobic' among us, as too complex to think about, but the motherboard provides a great deal of the functionality and efficiency that digital photographers demand. This core component moves the information between CPU, RAM, graphics card (and therefore display) and hard drive via bus pathways. The ability of these pathways to move large chunks of data around determines to a large extent how efficiently the whole system works. A board with slow pathways cannot deliver information quickly enough to keep the CPU busy, resulting in the processor not being fully utilised and slower overall system performance. The motherboard is the foundation on which the other components are built. Careful selection here will ensure that the rest of the system parts run to the best of their ability.

This fake memory space is called a Scratch Disk and one key to efficient photo processing is ensuring that this hard drive space is situated on a separate fast drive from those used for programs and photo storage.

SCREEN OR MONITOR

The screen is the visual link to your digital file. It follows then that money spent on a good-quality screen will help with the whole cycle of production. Screen size is important, as you need to have enough working space to lay out tool bars, dialogue

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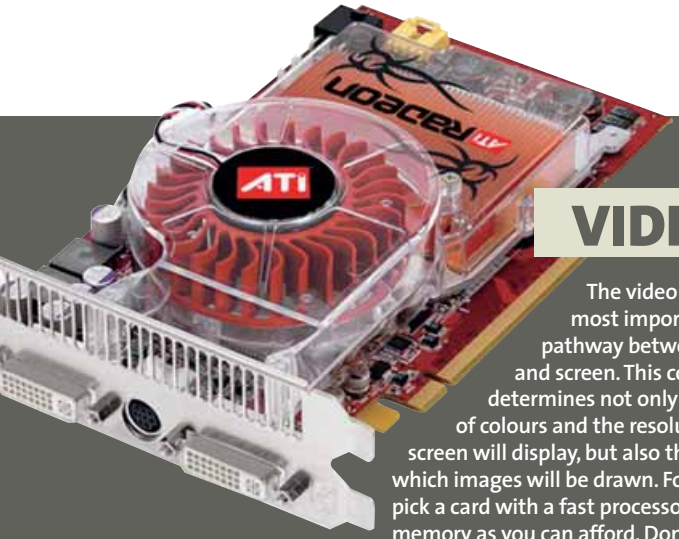

VIDEO *card*

The video card is the most important part of the pathway between computer and screen. This component determines not only the number of colours and the resolution that your screen will display, but also the speed at which images will be drawn. For best results pick a card with a fast processor and as much memory as you can afford. Don't assume that good 3D performance will also be reflected in the area of 2D graphics. Many of the most touted and most expensive cards on the market are optimised for game play, rather than photo-editing efficiency.

« boxes and images. Screens are categorised in terms of a diagonal measurement from corner to corner. Models of 17 or 19ins are now the standard, with 20in and larger (widescreen format) being the choice of imaging professionals. Although a few years ago the screen of choice for all professionals was definitely the CRT or Cathode Ray Tube (think old television sets), things have changed. More and more dedicated image makers are now turning to LCD or Liquid Crystal monitors as their displays.

MOUSE OR GRAPHICS TABLET

Much of the time spent working on digital images will be via the mouse or graphics tablet stylus. These devices are electronic extensions of your hand, allowing you to manipulate your images in virtual space. The question of whether to use a mouse or stylus is a personal one. The stylus does provide pressure-sensitive options not available with a mouse-only system. In all there are 28 different tools in Photoshop that get a boost in creativity when using a stylus and tablet. Wacom, the company foremost in the production of graphics tablets for digital imaging use, produces a cordless mouse and stylus combination that allows the user to select either pointer device at will. Wacom also produces professional systems that provide 3 levels of control – pressure, pen angle and barrel rotation.

TOP FIVE *Speed Bottlenecks*

The first step in increasing the speed that Photoshop powers through edits, is to determine where the bottlenecks in the process are. These points are where the slowness of one component in the chain causes other parts of the system to wait, bringing the whole process to a grinding halt.

1. RAM QUANTITY

The amount of installed RAM, together with the amount that is available for Photoshop's use, is the number one reason for slow photo editing. The standard 512MB supplied on most machines is just enough to run the operating system and a simple word processing application, but won't cut it for Photoshop work. The minimum that you should consider is 1GB (1024 MB) with 2GB being more realistic for demanding workloads.

2. PROCESSOR POWER

Despite most photographers thinking that photo editing is about enhancing great pictures, the truth is that from the computer's point of view it is just about performing massive amounts of calculations on loads of different numbers. For this reason the power of the processor to perform calculations determines much of the speed of the processing/editing. There is no doubt that top-of-the-line processors process pixels more quickly than entry-level chips.

3. BUS SPEED

Linking all the components together is a critical part of the process. There is no point having the best processor, the most RAM and hard drives with fantastic performance, when the data pathways between these components can't handle the amount of data that needs to be moved about. A quality motherboard with the latest chipset for your processor will provide the best bus speed.

4. HARD DRIVE PERFORMANCE

When Photoshop runs out of memory, it uses spare hard drive space to continue working. Slow drives with little available space degrade performance quickly.

5. GRAPHICS CARD

Video processor speed and video RAM are both critical when pushing picture data across ever-increasing screen territory.

BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIFICS?

In the next instalment we will get down to the 'nitty gritty' of selecting and setting up the processor, motherboard and RAM components of the Dream Machine. **WDC**

MORE ON *the web*

For more Pro Speed Tips on Faster Photoshop At No Cost: Visit our website **www.whatdigitalcamera.com** and just click on Downloads.

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Telephoto Macro

The new SP AF180mm F/3.5 Di LD [IF] MACRO 1:1 is a medium telephoto lens that gives the user a longer working distance needed even in macro photography. In addition, to meet the needs of this dual-format world (silver-halide and digital), the optical system of the lens is designed to provide optimum performance when used with the latest digital SLR cameras.

SP AF 180mm F/3.5 Di LD (IF) MACRO 1:1

Model B01
For Canon AF, Minolta AF-D and Nikon AF-D cameras

Di Digitally Integrated Design

Di is the designation Tamron puts on lenses featuring optical systems designed to meet the performance characteristics of digital SLR cameras.

Image taken Tamron SP AF 180mm Di Macro
© John Bridges

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Digital & Film

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the Help file

A problem shared *is a problem solved!*

Send your questions to us at **wdchelpfile@ipcmedia.com**

Nigel Atherton | Ian Burley | Jamie Harrison | Hannah Bouckley | Steve Crabb

Which DSLR *Lenses?*

From: Alex Crossland

I would like to buy some quality lenses to make the most of the EOS 20D. I have been very tempted by the Canon EF-S 10-22mm and the new 24-105mm F4L IS, but some of the comments I have found on the later lens have suggested that it suffers the perhaps inevitable compromises of a 4.375x zoom lens with distortion towards the extremes. For about the same money, I could buy Sigma's 10-20mm, 24-70mm f/2.8 and 70-200mm f/2.8. These are better value and the comments from users have been excellent. However, people keep telling me to buy the Canon, especially L-series, if I can afford it. Are they really that superior? I'd like to stretch to the best quality optics I can afford because they probably make more of a difference than the camera and the lenses should outlast the body. I have seen reviews on the new EOS 5D suggesting the resolution of the sensor is exceeding the limits of the lens.

JOEL SAYS: ***I think even Sigma might concede that in a like for like contest, the company's lenses might not be equal in every way to an L series EOS lens. But you're not making a like-for-like comparison, and there are other factors to consider. First, while it's nice to not have to change lenses, you do pay a penalty for having the all-in-one zoom, both in terms of aperture (one stop slower) and optical quality. As Scotty used to say, 'ye cannae change the laws of physics'. The 24-105L is an excellent lens of its kind, but may not outperform a lens with a shorter zoom range. Second, the Canon lens is designed to produce great optical quality right to the edges of a 35mm frame, but the 20D's sensor is smaller so you won't be using the edges of the image anyway. Of more relevance is the fact that the Sigma lenses are digitally optimised, whereas the older Canon lens is not, so on your 20D the Sigmas may be superior, since they have been specifically designed to work with the very different characteristics of digital sensors.***

Not so *Finecam*

From: A G Massey

I bought a Kyocera Finecam S5R digital camera about two years ago. It now records all its photographs with a very strong purple hue; my two local camera shops (national companies) have failed to rectify the problem and are mystified as to the cause. The trouble started intermittently but all pictures are now purple after one of my wife's trips abroad. She carried the camera in her suitcase, which travels in the luggage bay of the aircraft. I noticed in your issue 106, someone had problems with their digital camera due to moisture condensing into the camera body resulting from temperature and humidity changes. Do you think this purple discoloration could be due to the camera being in a cold luggage-hold and then being brought into a warm hotel or house? Is there a simple cure?

IAN SAYS: ***I doubt that moisture in the camera is the cause. Is the tint definitely purple or could it be blue; suggesting that the white balance setting has been set to incandescent or tungsten mode. This will make outdoor shoots blue, while shots indoor under artificial lighting will look more natural – this could also explain the 'intermittent' nature of the problem. Fingers crossed!***

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DSLR Lag?

From: Steve Palmer

I am thinking of buying a DSLR and have reduced my list to three or four choices. Can you tell me why there seems to be no comparison lists anywhere on shutter lag? Finding out info on shutter lag is difficult enough but a list seem impossible. Why is shutter lag is rarely mentioned in your tests? I am not totally convinced I need an SLR and on paper a superzoom seems ideal. Having been used to a film SLR, the shutter lag on compact digitals and superzooms is very difficult for me to get used to.

JOEL SAYS: *Shutter lag speeds are talked about less and less (particularly on digital SLRs) specifically because they are less and less of an issue. A professional sports photographer friend of mine complained of constantly having to change his shooting method at Premiership matches each time he upgraded his camera. Now it's simply not an issue for him, and it shouldn't really be for you. Shutter lag in its purest meaning is the delay between the shutter being activated and the picture taken. This is a different thing from the delay between you first pressing the shutter release button and the instant the image is recorded. Particularly for moving subjects, the time taken to focus becomes more of an issue and that is an impossible time to measure meaningfully as it depends on the lens used, the speed and direction of the subject's (and indeed camera's) movement, the level and contrast of the lighting, the reflectivity, size and nature of the subject and the subject's position in the frame in relation to other objects at a similar distance from the camera. Oh, and the ability of the photographer.*

Top Tips

AIRPORT SAFETY

Unlike film, digital cameras and memory cards aren't affected by the radiation produced by airport security XRay scanners. However, as fairly delicate electronic devices, digital cameras are more prone to damage by careless baggage handlers. Most airlines will allow you to take a camera bag onto the plane as well as your single piece of hand luggage.

Byte Size

Damp squib

From: Ian Gardner

After reading your reviews of "Slide Show software" (January 2006) I chose Ulead DVD Picture Show, but I cannot get it to burn CD/DVD disks on my external drive or CDs on my Sony VAIO PCG-FX805 laptop. When I try to burn a slideshow, it gets to "Writing on Disc - 71%" "Finalization VOB - 100%" and I then get: "Picture Show has encountered a problem and needs to close".

Presumably you are using version 4 of DVD Picture Show. There is a patch you can download that may solve this problem. Go to: **ftp://ftp.ulead.com.tw/pub/Updates/dps4/DPS4_Comm_Patch.exe**. *Ulead also suggests that you verify that the following necessary software is installed on your PC: Apple QuickTime, Microsoft DirectX, Macromedia Flash Player and Microsoft Windows Media Player.* ***IB***

Colour filters

From: Martin Kerr

Q: I have inherited a selection of 49m thread colour filters, such as an 80A blue and an 85B orange. Are they any use with my Konica Minolta Dimage A2?

Not a lot, to be honest. These filters were useful in film days because if you had, say, a daylight balanced film loaded and found yourself using artificial light you could fit a blue 80A filter to neutralise the orange cast. With digital, the white balance control offers far more precise fine tuning than filters could. The A2 gives you a choice of preset WB settings or you can measure the exact colour temperature and set that on the camera. Or you can also shoot in RAW mode and leave your colour temperature decisions till later. ***NA***

To Zoom or not to Zoom?

From: Matt Davies

I'm after a fairly good compact or a 'megazoom'. I like the Panasonic DMC FX9 or the DMC-FZ5 due to the Leica lens, lithium-ion battery, image stabiliser and the cracking zoom on FZ5. However, the camera needs to be handy enough to carry in a baby rucksack and simple enough to be able to whip out and take a picture. I've bought your December issue and seen the Sony H1 for £270-ish, the Kodak Z740, Fujifilm F810, Konica Minolta Z6 and the Canon S2-IS among others.

HANNAH SAYS: *Panasonic has just released a new camera that may be of interest. The DMC-TZ1 is the smallest camera that has a 10x optical zoom. We haven't reviewed it yet; however it includes a Leica lens, image stabiliser and the battery can take 250 shots from a single charge.*

Alternatively the Nikon Coolpix S4 (street price £260) has a 10x optical zoom and, with dimensions of 111.5 x 68.5 x 37mm, is much smaller than most mega-zoom cameras. The only thing that may or may not appeal to you is the swivelling lens; however you shouldn't let that put you off, because the S4 is a good camera and scored an impressive 88% in our test.

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Wear and Tear

From: Giuseppe Enrico Bignardi

Some three years ago I bought a Nikon Coolpix 5700 and three months ago it stopped downloading pictures to my computer. I tried first with different computers/cables but then had to pay £47 to have a new USB socket fitted to the camera. Within two months the same problem recurred and I bought a SanDisk card reader. This time, however, the remote control operating through the same socket was still working and a closer inspection of the interface cable showed a missing tooth in the plug. Having just bought a Canon EOS 350D, can you please advise me on the best/safest way to download pictures? Shall I use the card reader and risk damaging the SanDisk Ultra II 4 GB card (£211) with continuous plugging/unplugging, or shall I use the interface cable and risk damaging the camera?

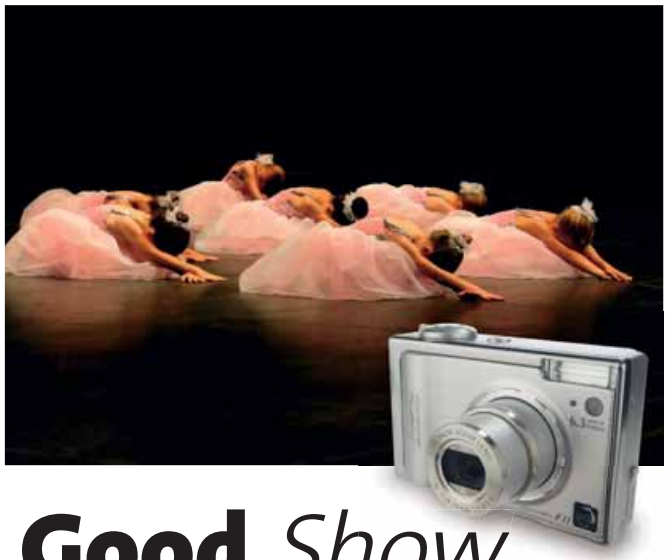
IAN SAYS: *In my experience of nearly ten years of using Compact Flash cards and regularly removing and reinserting them, none of them have inflicted physical damage to the pins in the slot. The forces are spread out over the dozens of pins, so each pin is not highly stressed. It's certainly my personal preference to use a card reader instead of a lead.*

Keep Or Sell

From: Tony Hudson

I have a Pentax MZ-5n, SMC Pentax- FA 1:4 28mm-70mm AL, SMC Pentax -F 1:4.7-5.6 80-200mm and I'm looking to part exchange them. My questions are:
1: Do you have any ideas as to what this equipment would be worth?
2: Which camera would you suggest? I'm looking at the Pentax ist DL – do you think this would be a good replacement?

JAMIE SAYS: *The camera body is worth around £100-150 depending where you sell it and depending on its condition. Ebay can be hit and miss, but you might have a better chance than selling to a camera shop which normally offers a lower price. However, I've always found Jessops to offer fair prices on secondhand equipment. Alternatively you could advertise it in a classified advert in Amateur Photographer for a set price. The DL is a nice little camera and produces good results. Even better, you can continue to use your current lenses on it.*



Top Tips

MIRROR LOCK UP
Long exposures and macro shots can be spoiled by the smallest movement, even the vibration of a DSLR's mirror as the exposure is made. To avoid this, use the mirror lock up facility if your camera has it.
If you're using a tripod but don't have a cable or remote release, then set the camera's self timer to 2 seconds in order to avoid accidental movement from merely pressing the shutter release button.

Good Show

From: Miriam Rosenberg

I work in the theatre and want a small, unobtrusive camera that I can use to photograph the performers and costumes at rehearsals and live performances. I can't use flash so I must be able to take shots using the stage lighting. I don't need a big zoom as I'll be quite close. What do you suggest for about £250?

NIGEL SAYS: *You need a camera that can produce the goods without flash. This means that it must either have an image stabiliser or good high ISO performance. Optical Image Stabilisers are rare on small compact cameras but the excellent and beautifully designed Panasonic FX range (currently on the FX9) and the slimline Konica Minolta X1 are among those that do. But although Image Stabilisers are good at stopping the camera shake caused by the slow shutter speeds necessary in low light, they don't stop subject movement, which I imagine is something you'll get a lot of in the theatre.*

Which brings me to the Fujifilm Finepix cameras, which are without equal in this department. The current contender, the F11, offers more than adequate image quality up to ISO 1600, and very good quality up to ISO 800. But their newly announced 2006 range includes a couple of cameras which look even better.

The Fujifilm Finepix V10 goes up to ISO 1600 but has a big 3in LCD screen and nicer styling than the F11, while the F30 goes up to a whopping ISO 3200. We haven't had a chance to test them yet but we expect to get review samples any day now.

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Compatibility Problems

From: Mike Rodway

My Canon D30 SLR will not communicate with my Windows XP Home Edition. There is nothing wrong it as a camera and, because I have loads of Canon SLR lenses, I am going to purchase another Canon (350D) as long as it is OK to use with Windows XP. Dealers seem to be reluctant to say one way or the other. Do you have any knowledge of a suitable Canon SLR?

JAMIE SAYS: *The problem is the age of the camera, which was made before XP. However, there is an updated driver available on the Canon website for XP at http://software.canon-europe.com/software/canon_eos_d30_wia_drivers2870.asp?model*

As for newer SLRs, there shouldn't be any problems at all with Windows XP.

Tricky Customer

From: Mike Davies

I'm looking for a 5MP camera for about £300. The specifications I'm looking for are: 1/8in sensor, an optical zoom lens starting from at least 35mm with proper wide angle (not 36 or 38mm!), optical viewfinder (no silly EVF), at least 2.0" LCD, SD card compatible, varying compression rates, normal focus from 50cm, burst mode, good write times (not more than 3 seconds shot-to-shot), Mpeg4 640x480 30fps unlimited movie mode, TV playback and 16+ MB internal. Other pluses would be a flash hotshoe (I take a lot of indoor shots), and a histogram. Of course it has to take good pictures!

HANNAH SAYS: *That is a very specific set of requirements, Mike, and you might have to forgo some of them; perhaps internal memory, which is not used by all camera manufacturers, and the optical viewfinder, which is an increasingly rare commodity. I presume you already have SD cards, which is why you require that format.*

The Canon IXUS 750 has an optical viewfinder, 1/1.8in sensor, 2.5in LCD and it uses an SD card. The only problem might be the lack of internal memory and the 37-111mm lens. Alternatively, the Nikon 7900 has a 1/1.8in sensor, 2in LCD, uses SD and an optical viewfinder. The 38-114mm focal length again may prove problematic, however it is worth pointing out that the 35mm you say you require is not wide angle. If it is a wideangle camera you are looking for, the Ricoh Caplio R3 might meet your requirements It uses SD media, has 26Mb internal memory and proved very quick in our test. Unfortunately it doesn't have an optical viewfinder and the sensor is 1/2.5in.

Martin Evening's Digital Surgery

What's wrong with this picture? Martin formulates his diagnosis and nurses it back to health

before

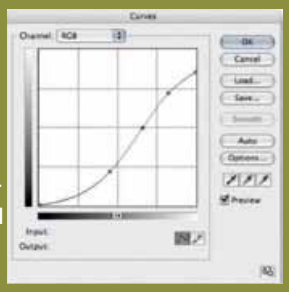
Rice Fields

By Susan Kolbush
Camera Olympus mini

This image was taken during a bike trip through Bhutan. I wanted to capture the valley and the rice workers that could have been taken a hundred years ago and been the same. The only thing done to this image was a slight cropping in photoshop on a PC. Camera setting: F3.5, ISO 64, 6.0MM

MARTIN SAYS: *I am interested to know just how much of the picture was cropped as I would like to have seen perhaps a little more of the left of the valley. As Susan points out, this is a scene of rural activity that has probably not changed greatly over the past century. The small digital camera that Susan used has done a fairly good job of capturing what was going on here. The flat, overcast lighting shouldn't be a barrier to taking a good photograph, but sometimes you need to employ a little dodging and burning to add some more drama to such a photograph.*

here's how



STEP 1 To dodge and burn, I only ever use curves adjustment layers and different layer blending modes. I added a first curves adjustment layer to lower the highlights in the sky and darken the overall picture.

STEP 2 I set this adjustment layer to the Luminosity blend mode. This means the darkening adjustment only darkens the luminance information without increasing the saturation. The vital part is using a combination of the gradient tool and the paintbrush on the adjustment layer mask to hide areas that needed to preserve the original tones. I then added an extra adjustment layer to lighten the two figures and the foliage in the foreground, and to add a little more contrast.

after

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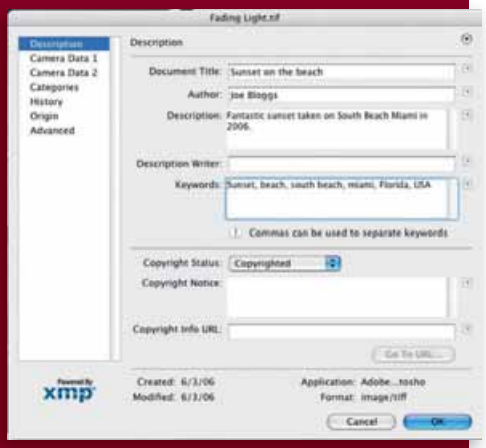
Jargon Buster

Everything you need to know about image-editing, but in an alphabetical order. This month we continue with F

F is for...

FILE INFO
This very useful function allows you to add specific text information to an image. Found under the **File > File info** command, the dialogue box displays various text fields that can be filled in as desired. These fields include Document title, Author, Description, Keywords, copyright status and camera data. When the information is added, it stays within the image, being accessed again with the **File > File info** command.



FADE
Use this command to apply a filter with a strength slider. For example, to create a soft focus filter, apply the Gaussian blur then hit undo. Now select **Edit > Fade** command and use the slider to reapply the Gaussian blur but this time with only the desired amount.

FREE TRANSFORM
This command allows you to physically resize, rotate, stretch or even flip a layer object. The bounding box has handles on the corners and the side, top and bottom. Use these to click and drag in the desired area. Press the **Shift** key if you want to constrain the size.

FLATTEN IMAGE
Flatten image is used when layers are to be merged into one single image. Normally performed when the image is to be saved out as non-layer-supporting file such as Jpeg.

FEATHER
This command is used when a selection is to be softened at the edges.

FILTER
Used to create a special effect or artistic look to an image.

Indoor Sports

From: Mr. Davie

What is the best camera to buy for sports photography, with a price range of £200-£300? I play a lot of badminton and squash and in some of the indoor centres the lighting is not great, making it difficult to adjust the photographs.

JOEL SAYS: *Low light favours SLRs with big sensors – you get higher signal-to-noise ratio and the option of turning up the ISO without losing too much quality. The question is how to get an SLR for £200-300. You could try secondhand – there are some excellent two or three-year-old DSLRs out there which will give you excellent focusing and the ability to change lenses. If you don't want an SLR, or can't find one within your budget, then the new Panasonic FZ 7 is a good compromise. It features a 12x Leica zoom lens and a high ISO setting up to ISO 1600. You can buy them for £299.*

Ask Adobe

Got a question on Photoshop or Elements?
Ask Adobe's imaging guru **Terry Steeley**

Terry Steeley *represents Adobe as a speaker at seminars and trade shows worldwide, and is recognised as a world-class Photoshop specialist. His popular Photoshop4Photographers seminars cater for all abilities and cover all aspects of capturing and editing digital images. Terry is also the author of Iridius Actions, a CD collection of over 90 production and creative actions for Photoshop designed to streamline and automate common tasks. For more details visit* ***www.photoshop4photographers.co.uk***

Levels Confusion

From: Lee Harrison

I have been advised to use the Levels in Photoshop but do not understand what they do or why I should use them. Can you help?

TERRY REPLIES: *The Levels dialogue box is an adjustment tool and is used to allow users to have a greater understanding of the of the tonal range of an image. Tonal information is displayed in a graph, known as a Histogram, and is a true representation of how pixels in an image are distributed and the number of pixels that are available at each intensity level. An image with a full tonal range will normally displays pixels at all levels of the Histogram. Images that do not have a full tonal range can be improved by dragging either the white or black point markers (small triangles) under the Histogram to a new location under the lightest (right) and darkest (left) pixels shown in the graph.*

Soft Proofing Resolved

From: Norman Thompson

What is soft-proofing and how do I use it?

TERRY REPLIES: *Soft-proofing is the ability to preview on a monitor a colour accurate preview of a high-quality image as it will appear once it has been proofed. This process can also be used to identify out-of-gamut colours, view different rendering intents and see the appearance of using different paper stocks. (You will require an ICC Profile for your printer and each paper you intend to soft-proof).*
Open an image into Photoshop. Choose... View > Proof Setup > Custom. Using the Device to Simulate menu, select the profile that represents your printer and media. Next, choose a Rendering Intent (Perceptual is popular for images) and ensure that Black Point Compensation is ticked. To simulate the paper colour of the media, select Simulate Paper. If you want to reuse these settings, click Save. The preset will be listed in the Proof Setup menu. Click OK. To turn the Proof Colors feature on or off, use the Command Y key shortcut.

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"The entire audience were completely entranced, enthralled and found themselves thoroughly enjoying the proceedings"

"I thought the Iridius seminar was excellent. I have tried a few of Terry Steeley's techniques (that are new to me) – they work!"

"An absolutely super day – fantastic! We shall look forward to the next Iridius seminar"

Evening Class

Photographer, author and Photoshop guru Martin Evening passes his verdict on a selection of your photos

See page 21 for details on how to send us your digital images

Toy *Plane* & My *Grandmother*

By Simon Micheli **Camera** Canon Powershot and Canon 300D

I shot a toy plane and moody sky, merged them, and used the burn tool to make it seem the plane was losing fuel. I used a 300D to shoot my grandma.

Martin says: *I really liked all the pictures Simon sent, but there is only room to print two here. In the composite image, the colour quality of the sky image is not as perfect as I'd like, but then the images were captured on a compact. The camera angles and blending work very well, and the smoke effect is not bad either. Simon's photo of his grandmother is what I'd describe as a classic reportage style portrait, a very professional-looking shot.*

Rock *in a lake*

By Lars Christiansen **Camera** Nikon D2X

This rock is surrounded by newly formed ice. I was impressed with the colours of the rock and the structures of the ice surroundings. I left the camera on auto.

Martin says: *This photograph contains a fascinating mix of textures, and the rich colours of the rock are nicely offset by the neutral colour of the ice. There are lines in the ice radiating outwards from the rock and you will notice that this draws your eye inwards to the centre. It is also an abstract image of uncertain scale. At first sight this could even be an aerial view. Lars mentions using light sharpening settings on this image. But I would say this image has been heavily sharpened. It is more than sharp enough to go straight to print but oversharpened for general retouching work.*

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Sunflower *Seeds*

By Barbara Balma **Camera** Canon Powershot Pro 1

In my garden I really liked the hot fire colours that remain in the sunflower head even in autumn. I took this with my new Pro 1 and I did not adjust this image at all.

Martin says: *This is a really nice macro close-up photograph and I assume that the flower head was perhaps partially backlit to produce the glowing red colours.*

Speeding *Train*

By Jimmy Lau **Camera** Nikon D70

As we were arriving at a station I decided (stupidly!) to stick my head and camera out the window to take this shot of an oncoming train. Both trains were moving very slowly. To me the slight angle gives the picture more sense of movement. I used radial blur to exaggerate speed.

Martin says: *I am not sure we should be encouraging others to follow your example here – you do need to exercise some common sense safety for yourself and others when taking pictures. Still, you have produced an out-of-the-ordinary train photo and I agree that the angle is best left as it is.*

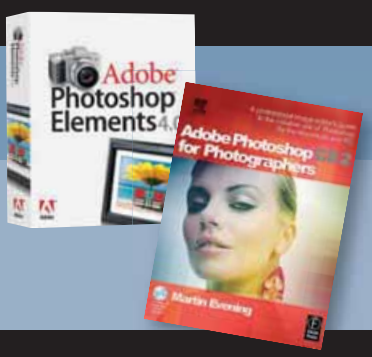
Giraffe *& Son*

By Randall Collis **Camera** Canon 20D

While in San Diego, I spent a day at the San Diego zoo, which tries to provide natural settings where possible.

Martin says: *This is a sweet photo of an adult giraffe with its offspring. Michael describes how he shot with his 20D hand held, but resting the camera wherever he could for added stability. And I guess that the image stabilisation features of the 70-200 lens came in useful too. Michael is using some very fine professional equipment and the results prove it. Well done on the timing to have captured this picture. The key here is patience. Moments like this don't just happen when you want them to. You have to be prepared to wait and shoot at least several captures in order to get photos such as this.*

MARTIN EVENING: Martin is a photographer, Photoshop alpha tester, international Adobe Roadshow speaker and author of the definitive, worldwide best-selling manual, Adobe Photoshop for Photographers. Visit his website at **www.martinevening.com**



EVERY PICTURE PUBLISHED WINS A CHOICE OF MARTIN EVENING'S BOOK ADOBE PHOTOSHOP FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS, OR ADOBE ELEMENTS 4.0

Adobe Photoshop CS2 for Photographers, by Martin Evening, is the definitive, world-wide best-selling guide to Photoshop. Priced £27.99 with a tutorial packed CD-ROM. Visit **www.focalpress.com**.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0 is the market-leading consumer photo editing and management software. It boasts groundbreaking features and a user-friendly interface. Visit **www.adobe.co.uk**

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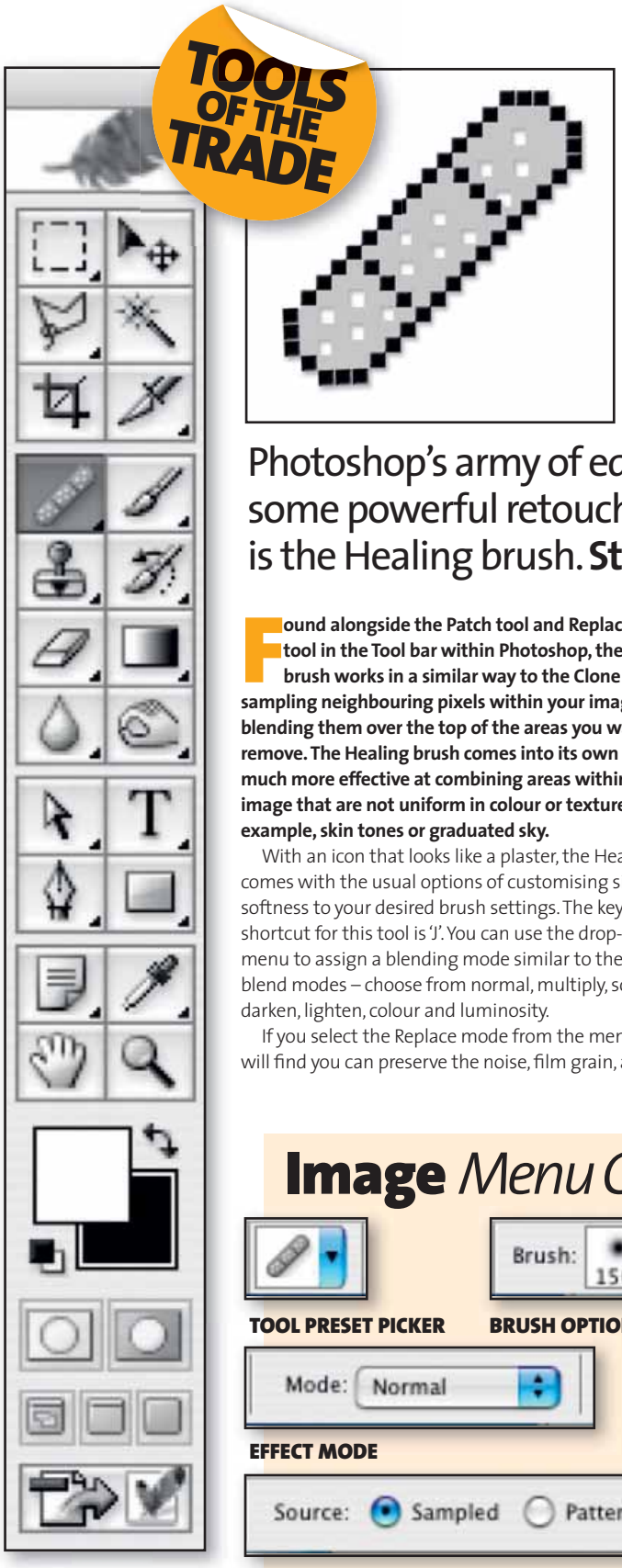


Healing *Brush*

Photoshop's army of editing and enhancement tools includes some powerful retouching elements; one of the mightiest is the Healing brush. **Steve Crabb** demonstrates its power

Found alongside the Patch tool and Replace colour tool in the Tool bar within Photoshop, the Healing brush works in a similar way to the Clone tool by sampling neighbouring pixels within your image and blending them over the top of the areas you want to remove. The Healing brush comes into its own by being much more effective at combining areas within your image that are not uniform in colour or texture, for example, skin tones or graduated sky.

With an icon that looks like a plaster, the Healing brush comes with the usual options of customising size and softness to your desired brush settings. The keyboard shortcut for this tool is 'J'. You can use the drop-down menu to assign a blending mode similar to the Layer blend modes – choose from normal, multiply, screen, darken, lighten, colour and luminosity.

If you select the Replace mode from the menu, you will find you can preserve the noise, film grain, and texture at the edges of the brush stroke; however, generally sticking to Normal mode will give you the required results for basic image retouching.

The Healing brush works extremely well in areas of flat detail but has a graduated colour and tone. For example, clear skin has little detail but the colour and brightness can vary a great deal. If there is a blemish on the skin that needs to be removed, the Healing brush will sample the neighbouring pixels and place them over the top of the blemish, but at the same time matching the difference in colour and brightness to the original.

Obviously retouching tools are not limited only to beauty enhancements – these skills can be applied to just about any subject and any blemish. To retouch with perfection takes time and practice, so give yourself some time to experiment with basic areas first and work your way up to more complex projects when you feel more confident.

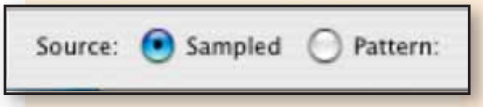
Follow these steps to learn how to use the Healing brush.

Image *Menu Options*

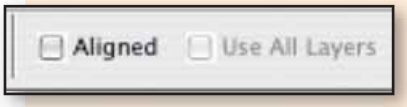
TOOL PRESET PICKER

BRUSH OPTIONS

EFFECT MODE

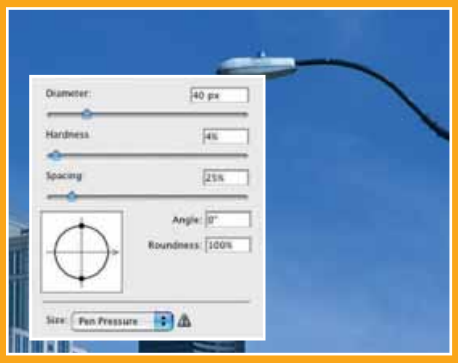


SOURCE OPTIONS



STROKE OPTIONS SETTINGS

Step *By Step*



1 Set *Brush Size*

With your image open, select the zoom tool to enlarge your working area. Now select the Healing brush from the Tool bar. From the options area, select a suitable brush size and set the softness value to maximum.

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Above: This image of a cityscape has its focal point ruined by the intruding street lamp.

Right: The street lamp has been removed using the Healing brush. Using the brush has avoided any repetition of pixels and obvious sampling.

TOP TIPS!

Apply your first stroke and wait a second for the brush to render. You will then see if your sampled point was the best place to pick pixels from. If your stroke appears as a dark smudge, then hit undo and try sampling again from a different location.

2 Sample *Pixels*

Hold down the Alt key (option key for Mac) and click a little away from the blemish, this will sample the tone and colour for your replacement pixels; try to sample an area that is as close to the original as possible. Release the key and move the Healing brush tool over to your blemished area.

3 Paint *New Pixels*

Begin to paint over the blemished area. The Healing brush takes a few seconds to apply the blend, so it's worth making just one stroke of the brush first to see how the blend is working. If you get a muddy streak over the image, then undo the last step and Alt-click again in another area that may improve the blend better.

4 Final *Result*

When you are happy that the blend is matching the original, apply the Healing brush over the remaining area until it has completely vanished.

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LEARN: Brush tool, Colour blend mode, Eyedropper, Lighten/darken mode

The Photoshop Project

Picture credits: www.istockphoto.com

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WDC EXPERT
Philip Andrews

A senior lecturer for over 17 years, in Photography & Digital Imaging. Author of many photography books, Philip is an Adobe alpha tester and a winner of the Leica documentary award for Australia (1999)
www.adv-elements.com

Virtual Digital Surgery Part 2

This month **Philip Andrews** shows you a couple more techniques to add to your bulging kitbag of portrait retouching skills

Subtle changes in tone and colour are all that is needed with some portraits to promote a great photo to a polished professional product. Last month I introduced two useful retouching techniques to help put the finishing touches on your portraits. Here are a couple more.

In these techniques I have concentrated on eliminating skin problems that can appear with even the most meticulously prepared models. The brush tool in conjunction with different blend modes provides the most powerful enhancement solution for these retouching tasks. Even if your portraits are more candid, having these techniques up your sleeve will help you add a professional finishing touch to your photos.

Toning down *Shadows & Highlights*

The example image has all the attributes of a great portrait but, as with a lot of photos of this type, there are a couple of places where the model's skin is a little shiny and the area under her eyes is a bit dark. Gentle lightening of the dark areas and darkening of the shiny bits are two techniques that, when mastered, you will use often when enhancing your portrait images.

This technique makes use of the Brush tool in both Lighten and Darken blending modes, along with the model's own skin colour to reduce the appearance of these areas in the final image.

The *brief*

Identify and reduce harsh skin highlights and dark areas around the eyes

Skill *level* 1 2 3 4 5

TOOLS AND SKILLS
- Brush
- Lighten blend mode
- Darken blend mode
- Eye dropper tool

Completion *time*

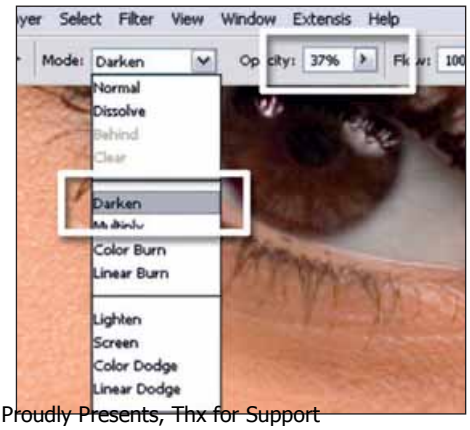
15 minutes

Software

Adobe Photoshop CS 2

Step 1 Brush *options*

Start by selecting the **Brush tool** from the toolbar. Next go to the tool's options bar and select **Darken** as the Brush Mode. At the same time I have also adjusted the Opacity of the tool to a lower value than the 100% default so that a little of the original texture remains after retouching. Here I used a setting of 37% but the value you select will be determined by the nature of the portrait. Try a couple of different settings using the **Edit > Undo** option to reverse undesirable results. >>



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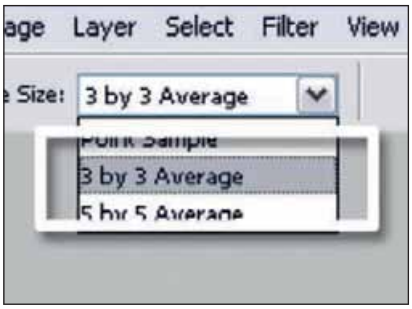
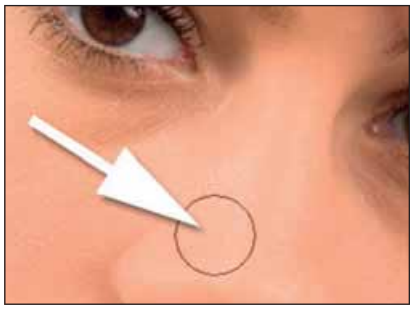
Step 2 Eyedropper *tool*

« Now select a flesh tone that is slightly darker than the highlight areas with the **Eyedropper tool**. If you haven't already set up the Eyedropper tool for sampling skin tones, you will need to ensure that the Sample Size is set to an average of either '3x3' or '5x5' pixels and not the Point Sample setting. To see these settings in the Options Bar, the Eyedropper tool must be selected.



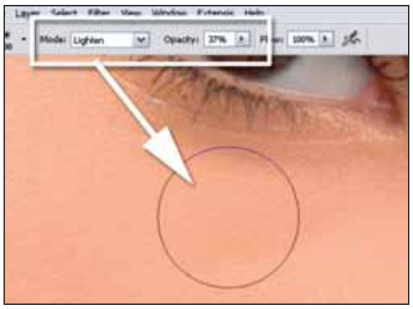
Step 3 Gently *brush*

Gently brush over the shiny areas on the nose, forehead and cheek regions. When brushing using the Darken mode, only the pixels that are lighter than the sampled colour will be adjusted. For best results keep selecting different sample colours as you brush. For even more control, apply the enhancement changes to a separate layer. The strength of the changes can then be adjusted via the layers opacity setting.



Step 4 Lighten *mode*

The same technique can be used to lighten the dark areas under the eyes. This time select **Lighten mode** before sampling a flesh tone slightly lighter than the dark areas you want to fix. Again, choose a range of sample tones while brushing to ensure the results are not too uniform. If you applied the changes to a separate layer, adjust the opacity of the layer to bring back some of the underlying face structure.



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Reduce *Red Skin*

In this example the model's bright red (or is that orange) hair is colouring the light that is reflected back onto the skin tones making them quite warm. This is particularly noticeable in the shadow areas of the face and around the hands. Add to this the fact that there is an obvious magenta tinge to the areas around the nose and chin and you can see that we need to do some colour correction to the portrait.

Your initial thoughts might be to use the Color Balance and Curves feature to reduce the warmth in the photo, but this action reduces the vibrancy of the hair colour at the same time as neutralising the skin tones. This is not a desired scenario as the hair colour is one of the strongest aspects of the image.

So instead of making global (all over) changes to the picture this technique uses the Eyedropper tool to sample an area of neutral skin, and then employs the Brush tool in Color mode to paint out the overly warm tones.

This technique can be used equally as well to neutralise the 'red ears' that some people get when they are sitting nervously for a portrait or the 'red nose' when people have had too much wine.

The *brief*

Identify and reduce redness in the face, without affecting overall image colour and tone

Skill *level* 1 2 3 4 5

TOOLS AND SKILLS
- Brush tool
- Colour blend mode
- Eyedropper tool

Completion *time*

15 minutes

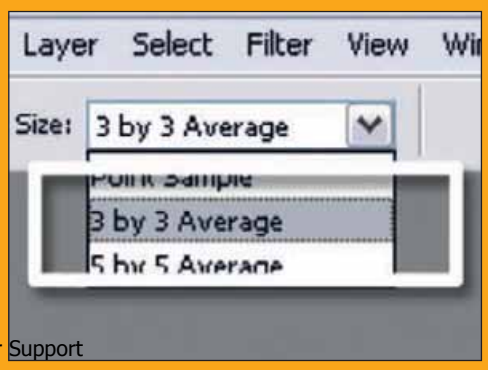
Software

Adobe Photoshop CS 2

Step 1 Sample *point*

Start by ensuring that the **Eyedropper tool's Sample Size** is set to an average of either '3x3' or '5x5' pixels and not the Point Sample setting. To do this, select the tool and then chose a different option from the drop down list on the tool's option bar.

This change will make sure that, when you use the tool, you sample an average of the pixel tones and colours rather than just a single pixel's value.



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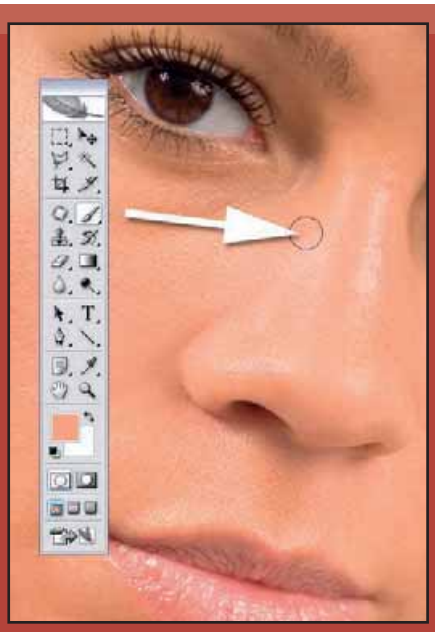


PRO TIP!

Instead of choosing the Eyedropper tool from the toolbox, you can stay with the Brush tool and just hold down the Alt/Option key and click onto the skin colour to sample the area.

In order to lighten any dark skin areas of the face, sample a flesh tone that is slightly lighter, and change the Brush's Blend Mode to lighten. To darken shiny areas or light skin areas, you need to sample a flesh tone that is slightly darker, and change the Brush's Blend Mode to Darken.

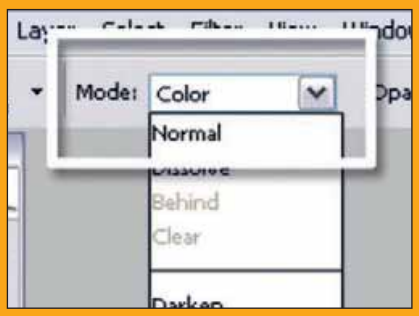
To ensure that the retouched area doesn't look too plastic, make sure that you reduce the opacity of the Brush tool, because this will allow some of the original skin texture to shine through.

Step 2 Neutral *skin*

Locate a portion of skin tone that is free from red casts and click on it with the **Eyedropper**. The foreground colour in the toolbox now contains the colour you sampled. Check that the hue is right and free from casts. If not, resample a different area.

Step 3 Blend *mode*

With the skin colour set as the **foreground** colour, select the **Brush tool** and change the **Blend mode** from Normal to **Colour** (towards the bottom of the drop down list in the Brush tool's option bar).



Step 4 Sample *point*

Finally, apply the skin coloured paint over the red/magenta areas in the photo. Notice that, because the brush is in the Color mode, the paint is laid down in such a way that the details of the photo beneath are retained and only the colour is altered.

PRO TIP!

A non-destructive version of this technique starts with creating a new empty layer above the original photo. Next change the Blend mode of the new layer to ***Color*** *using the drop-down list at the top of the Layers palette. Select the skin tone with the Eyedropper tool and then switch to the Brush tool. Make sure it is set to the Normal mode and then brush this colour onto the new layer. With this approach the colorisation of the skin is handled by the layer's blend mode.*

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SIGMA

OUR WORLD

MICHAEL MELFORD SHOOTS THE WORLD WITH A SIGMA LENS
MICHAEL MELFORD: Born in the U.S. in 1950. Worked as a contributing photographer to LIFE magazine and other major publications. Internationally renowned for location photography. Won Best Editorial Photography award from the Caribbean Tourism Board in 2003. Photo data: SIGMA 17-70mm F2.8-4.5 DC MACRO lens, 1/15 second exposure at f2.8.

Still capturing images long after the sun sets in the Caribbean

The majesty of twilight on the island of Saba in the Caribbean is breathtaking. Only a large aperture lens can capture it in its full glory. The SIGMA 17-70mm zoom lens is just such a lens. Brightness is excellent, with maximum aperture of F2.8 for wide-angle shooting, with a minimum focusing distance of 20cm / 7.9 inches, it has an amazingly close focusing capability at all focal lengths. Designed specifically for digital SLR cameras, the lens image circle is designed to bring the best out of image sensors of APS-C size, used in digital SLRs. Optical design and lens coating is optimised precisely to reduce flare and ghosting. SLD (Special Low Dispersion) coated glass and aspheric lens elements maintain superior image quality throughout the entire range. The lens design incorporates an inner focus system making it particularly suitable for use with circular polarizing filters and petal-shaped lens hoods.

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*Vignetting (a darkening of the corners of the image) will occur if the lens is used with digital SLR cameras with image sensors larger than APS-C size or 35mm SLRs, and APS SLRs

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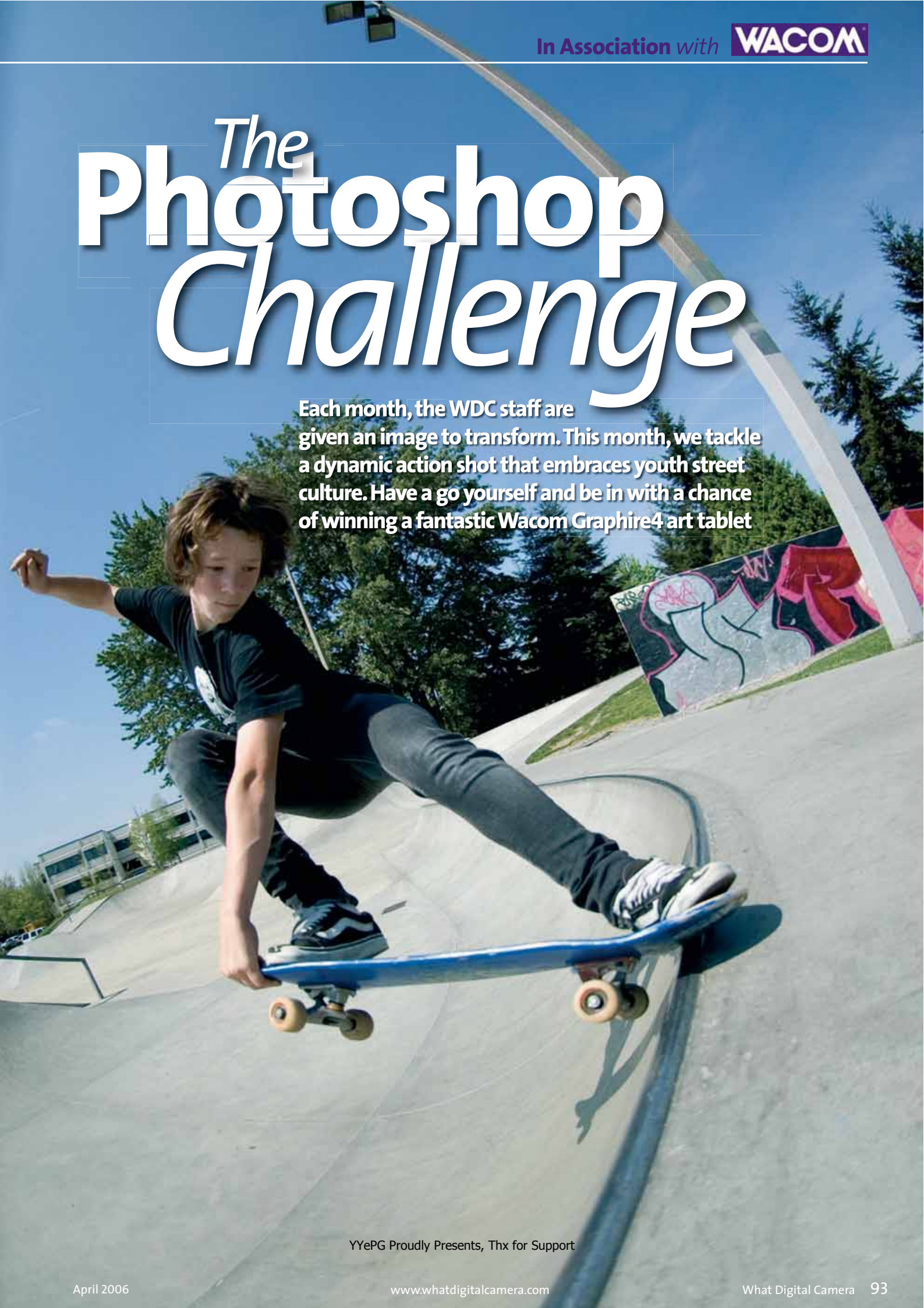
The Photoshop Challenge

Each month, the WDC staff are given an image to transform. This month, we tackle a dynamic action shot that embraces youth street culture. Have a go yourself and be in with a chance of winning a fantastic Wacom Graphire4 art tablet



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Nigel Atherton discovers what penguins get up to when David Attenborough isn't looking...

I struggled a bit with this month's challenge. My original plan was to cut out the boy and skateboard and put them into a more interesting background, but finding something suitable proved difficult.

I wanted a low angle and something for the skateboard to jump over. Then I found this shot. Low angle? Check. Object to jump over? Check. But it didn't work with the boy, so I replaced him with a penguin, which seemed more in context. Now it looks as though he's showing off in front of his mates.

step 1 The cut out

Had I known I wasn't going to use the boy I wouldn't have wasted time cutting him out, but there you go. I used the lasso for a rough cut out, then a fine eraser to go around the edges. Then I pasted it onto my background and went to Layers>Matting>Defringe to remove the edges. Once I found the seal shot I then simply erased the boy, taking care around the skateboard edges.

step 2 The penguin

The penguin was cut-out using the same method as for for the skateboarder. I resized him to right scale, and tried with stretching his flippers so it looked like he was holding onto the board, but that didn't look right. I then duplicated the penguin/board layer and went to Filters>Blur>Motion Blur and blurred the lower layer to add the sensation of speed.

Jamie Harrison gets to grips with filters to create an 'edgy' image that reflects the 'cool' factor

Skateboarding photography usually suits vibrant, 'edgy' treatments so I used a variety of simple filters in Photoshop, that are available in all versions of the program and its assorted spin-offs.

Which leads nicely to the technique. First I used the spherize filter in the Distortion Filters menu. I upped this to 100% for maximum distortion effect. The image was taken with a very wideangle lens in the first place so this just increases the effect more. Next, I added the radial blur filter, which can be found in the filters menu, under Blur. I added a spin factor of 4 to keep the boy's face clear, and then moved the spin centre over where his face is. This usually takes a couple of attempts to find the sweet spot, so just experiment and select Undo to go back until you're satisfied.

To increase the edgy effect, I went to Adjustment Layers > Hue and Saturation and increased the saturation overall, and then more in the blues. I also decreased the saturation in the greens to de-emphasise the background trees. Finally the image was cropped square to improve the composition.

step 1 Spherize

Go to **Filter> Distort> Spherize** and move the slider to 100% for full effect. Click okay to apply the filter.

step 2 Radial Blur

Go to **Filter> Blur> Radial Blur**. Use the slider to set the amount of spin; the higher the number, the more spin and the less clear the central area is. Use your cursor to click and drag the centre of the blur around the image box to place the spin centre in the area you want the spin to start.

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Steve Crabb creates a modern urban work of art

When I first saw this image, I immediately thought of my 15-year-old nephew. He, like a lot of youngsters, loves skateboarding. But he also really digs rough, urban artwork that carries genuine 'street cred'.

This kind of artwork is found in a lot of youth media, such as magazines, music, films and television.

To create a rough urban look, I first cropped the image down to give greater emphasis on the boarder. I then converted to greyscale and then back to RGB mode.

Levels were adjusted to increase the image contrast and then a large amount of Noise was added from the filter menu.

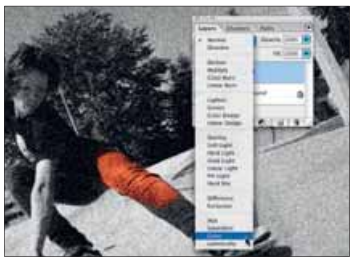
Finally I created a Layer Blend and set it to colour. Using this tool, I then painted in the boarder's jeans and T-shirt with primary colours.

step 1 Add noise

After converting to greyscale and then back to RGB, select the levels and increase the contrast. Then select **Filter>Noise >Add noise**. Drag the slider up as far as you can go with out losing the detail of the original image. Experiment with the options settings until you're happy with the result.

step 2 Layer blend

Create a new layer from the layers palette. From the Blend mode drop-down menu, select the Colour mode. From the swatch menu, choose a primary colour and then a suitable sized brush. Begin to paint on the colour layer, making sure you don't stray over the edges.



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Images should be saved as a JPG and be no less than 5MB in size. Send in your images to wdc@ipcmedia.com. Please put 'Wacom Challenge' as the subject of your email.

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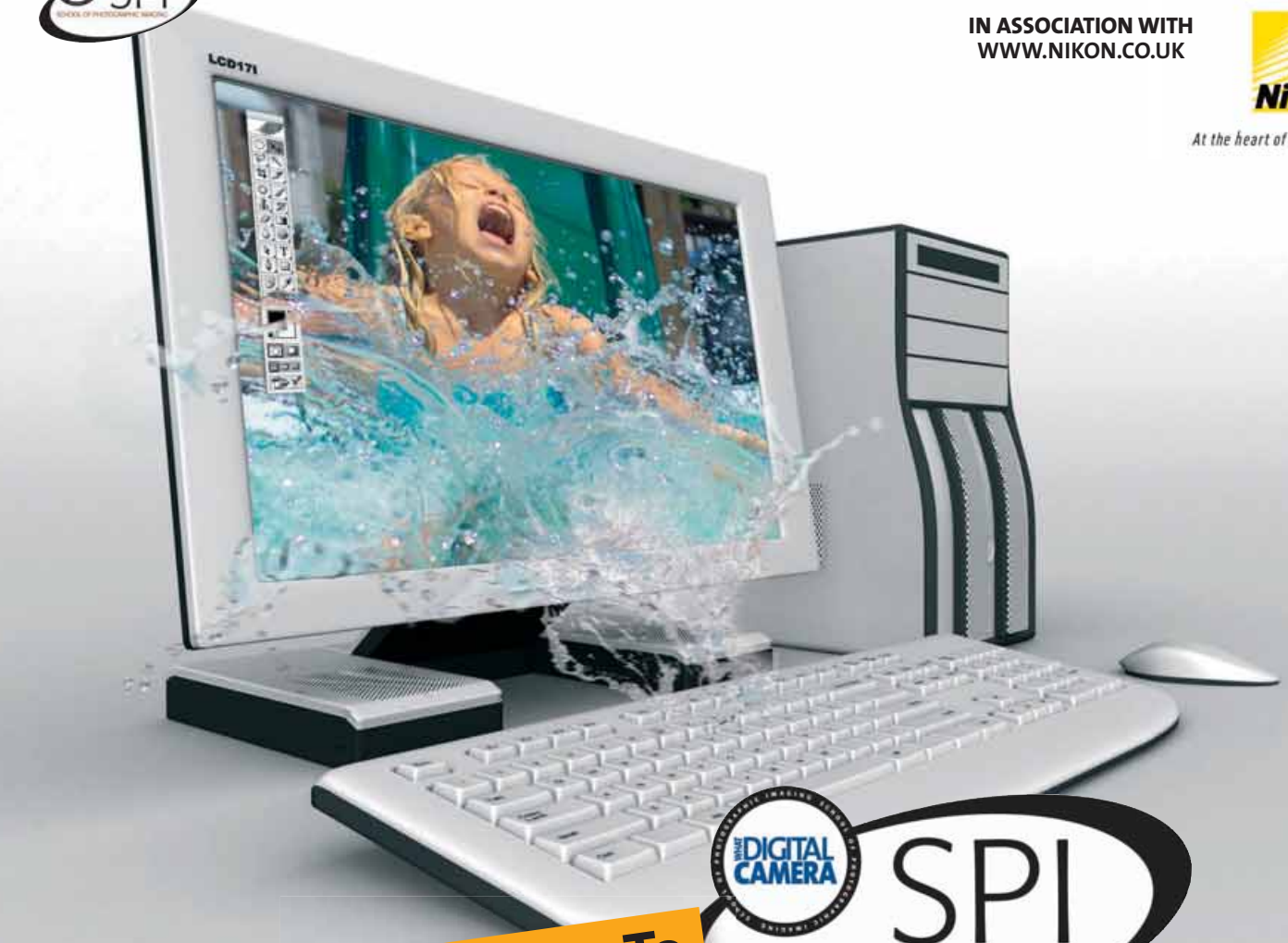

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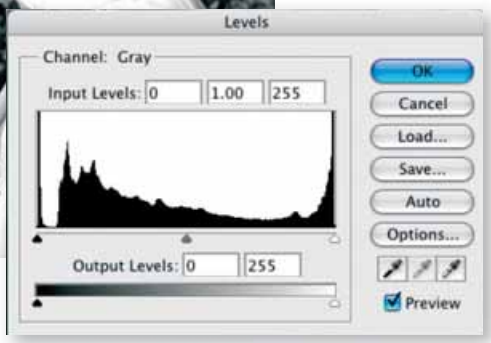

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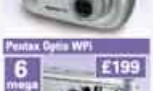

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DigiMax i8	£See web
DigiMax V700 NEW	£189.00
DigiMax S600 NEW	£See web
DigiMax S800	£See web

Sony

Cybershot DSC-P200	£229.00
Cybershot DSC-S40	£124.00
Cybershot DSC-S90S	£169.00
Cybershot DSC-T5	£219.00
Cybershot DSC-T7	£269.00
Cybershot DSC-T9 NEW	£289.00
Cybershot DSC-W15	£199.00
Cybershot DSC-W17	£243.00
Cybershot DSC-W30 NEW	£149.00
Cybershot DSC-W50 NEW	£169.00
Cybershot DSC-M2	£See web
Cybershot DSC-N1	£316.00
Cybershot DSC-R1	£559.00
Cybershot DSC-S600 NEW	£139.00

Fujifilm FinePix S5600 Zoom

5 mega pixels — 10x Optical Zoom — 38-380 mm Zoom

FUJIFILM £223 or £10mth

Fujifilm FinePix S9500 Zoom

FREE Fuji multi-function case worth £29.99

9 mega pixels — 10.7x Optical Zoom — 28-300mm Zoom

FUJIFILM £379 or £16mth

NEW Leica D-LUX 2

8 mega pixels — 4x Zoom — 18-112mm — 3 Image ratios

Spare Battery £48 — Leica Crumpler Case £28 — Digiscoping Adapter £129

£499 or £21mth

Olympus SP 320

7 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 38-114mm Zoom

OLYMPUS £189 or £8mth

Olympus µ[mju] Digital 700

7 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 37-111mm Zoom

OLYMPUS £199 or £8mth

Kodak Easyshare P880

8 mega pixels — 5.8x Optical Zoom — 24-140mm Zoom

Kodak £349 or £16mth

Olympus µ[mju] Digital 720SW

7 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 38-114mm Zoom

OLYMPUS £259 or £11mth

Olympus µ[mju] Digital 810

8 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 35-105mm Zoom

OLYMPUS £279 or £12mth

Rollei Prego dp 8300

8 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 36-108mm Zoom

Rollei £249.99 or £11mth

Pentax Optio S6

6 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 37-112mm Zoom

PENTAX £219 or £9mth

Sony Cybershot DSC-W50

6 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 38-114mm Zoom

SONY £169 or £8mth

Sony Cybershot DSC-T9

6 mega pixels — 3x Optical Zoom — 38-114mm Zoom

SONY £289 or £13mth

Samsung Pro815

8 mega pixels — 15x Optical Zoom — 28-420mm Zoom

SAMSUNG £449 or £19mth

Ricoh Caplio R30

5 mega pixels — 5.7x Optical Zoom — 28-160mm Zoom

RICOH £219 or £10mth

Ricoh Caplio GR Digital

8 mega pixels — x Optical Zoom — mm Zoom

RICOH £399 or £17mth

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8 mega pixels SLR

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8 mega pixels SLR

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EF-S 17-85mm + BG-E3 Grip £889 or £38/mth

Worlds lightest digital SLR body
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Sophisticated DIGIC II imaging engine

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8.2 mega pixels SLR

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EOS 20D Plus...
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Canon EF-S 17-85mm f4-5.6 IS USM £1159 or £49/mth

8.2 Megapixel CMOS sensor
5 fps with up to 23 frame burst
DIGIC II Processor
E-TTL II distance-linked flash

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SLR 12.8 mega pixels

£200 CASHBACK

See the Andy Rouse EOS 5D Review

12.8 MP full frame CMOS sensor
3 fps 60 JPEG image burst
9-point AF with 6 Assist AF points
2.5" LCD
Picture Style image processing
DIGIC II
Records RAW/JPEG images

EOS 5D - Body only £1599 or £67/mth (with Cashback)

EOS 5D Plus...
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5D - Accessories
BG-E4 Grip £169.99

NEW EOS 1D MkIIN

SLR 8.2 mega pixels

SEE WEBSITE FOR LATEST PRICES

8.2 MP CMOS sensor
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45-point AF
Bright 2.5" 230K pixel LCD
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DIGIC II
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NEW EOS 1Ds MkII

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16.7 MP full frame 36 x 24mm CMOS sensor
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Canon Lenses

EF20mm f2.8 USM	£329.00	EF-S17-85mm f4-5.6 USM (for EOS 20D & 350D only)	£409.00
EF24mm f2.8	£309.00	EF20-35mm f/3.5-4.5 USM	£269.00
EF28mm f1.8 USM	£319.00	EF24-85mm f/3.5-4.5 USM	£239.00
EF28mm f2.8	£134.00	EF24-70 F2.8L USM	£881.00
EF50mm f1.4 USM	£239.00	EF24-105 F4 L IS USM	£681.00
EF60mm f2.8 Macro	£277.00	EF28-105mm f/4-5.6 USM	£147.00
EF85mm f1.8 USM	£264.00	EF28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS USM	£328.00
EF85mm f1.2L II USM NEW	£See web	EF70-200mm f/2.8 L IS USM	£1299.00
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EF-S10-22mm f3.5-4.5 USM (for EOS 20D & 350D only)	£514.00	EF70-300mm f/4.0-5.6 IS USM NEW	£369.00
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EF17-40mm f/4.0 L USM	£533.00	EF100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 L IS USM	£1089.00
EF17-55mm f2.8 IS USM NEW	£See web		

Canon

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35-105mm Zoom

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2.4x Optical Zoom
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Canon £169 or £8mth

IXUS 55

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3x Optical Zoom
35-105mm Zoom

Canon £239 or £10mth

PowerShot A520

4 mega pixels
3x Optical Zoom
35-140mm Zoom

Canon £169 or £8mth

IXUS 750

7 mega pixels
3x Optical Zoom
37-111mm Zoom

Canon £289 or £13mth

PowerShot A410

3 mega pixels
3.2x Optical Zoom
41-131mm Zoom

Canon £95 or £8mth

PowerShot A610

5 mega pixels
4x Optical Zoom
35-140mm Zoom

Canon £165 or £8mth

PowerShot A620

7 mega pixels
4x Optical Zoom
35-140mm Zoom

Canon £199 or £9mth

PowerShot S2 IS

5 mega pixels
12x Optical Zoom
38-432mm Zoom

Canon £299 or £13mth

PowerShot S80

8 mega pixels
3.8x Optical Zoom
28-100mm Zoom

Canon £312 or £14mth

DIGITAL IXUS WIRELESS NEW	£284.00	PowerShot A410	£95.00	PowerShot S2 IS	£299.00
IXUS i Zoom	£169.00	PowerShot A520	£169.00	PowerShot S80	£312.00
IXUS 55	£239.00	PowerShot A610	£165.00		
IXUS 750	£289.00	PowerShot A620	£199.00		

See website for latest prices

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Nikon

NEW Nikon D200

Nikon launches its powerful, feature-packed D200 digital SLR camera, delivering a high-precision, high-performance package and creating a new class of camera between entry-level and professional digital SLRs.

Kirk L-Bracket only £99.95

10.2 million pixels SLR

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Plus 1/2 price lens deal...see website

D200 - Accessories
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RM-8 LCD Screen Cover £6.99
CF-D200 Case £49.99

D200 - Body only £1199 or £50/mth

D200 Plus...
AF-S 18-70mm £1369 or £58/mth
AF-S 17-55mm £2099 or £88/mth

NEW Nikon D50

Vivid colour and sharp details straight from the camera

Specifically designed for consumers looking to upgrade from a digital compact to the next level of digital photography, the D50 is affordable and simple to use; perfect for the SLR beginner.

6.1 effective megapixel Nikon DX Format CCD
3D Colour Matrix Metering II ensures accurate exposure control and white balance.
Near-instant 0.2-second power-up, and quick shutter response

6.1 mega pixels SLR

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D50 - Accessories CF-D50 Semi Soft Case £34.99

Photographer's Choice July 2005 88%
• Great AF and metering
• Good flash
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• Really easy to use
• Big and clear LCD

D60 - Body only £345 or £16/mth

D50 Plus...
AF-S DX 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 G ED £425 or £18/mth
AF-S 24-85mm f3.5-4.5G £495 or £21/mth
AF-S DX 18-70mm f3.5-4.5G IF ED £529 or £23/mth
AF-S DX 18-55mm & AF-S DX55-200mm £559 or £24/mth

Nikon D70s

An evolution of the award winning D70

The D70s is ready to shoot in an instant, taking just 0.2 seconds to power up. Shutter release time lag is minimised for quick response which makes shooting even more efficient and enjoyable.

6.1 effective megapixel Nikon DX Format CCD
3 frames per second for a continuous burst of up to 144 pictures
0.2 sec. power-up and short shutter release time lag
Large 2.0" LCD monitor with intuitive menus and help display

Remote Control Shutter Release Cord MC-DC1 £29.99

6.1 mega pixels SLR

Battery Grips Hahnel HN-D70 ..£99.99

D70s - Body only £579 or £25/mth

D70s Plus...
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Nikkor AF-S 24-85mm f3.5-4.5 G £728 or £31/mth

D70s - Accessories
CF-D70s Semi Soft Case £34.99
EN-EL3 Lith-ion Battery £49.99

COOLPIX 8700

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only £299

Scoop Purchase D100

6 mega pixels

£699

Nikon D2Hs

4.1 mega pixels SLR

LBCAST image sensor with 4.1 effective megapixels
Advanced new image processing engine
8 fps for up to 50 consecutive shots
3D-Color Matrix Metering II

D2Hs - Body only £2049 or £86/mth

NEW Nikon D2X

12.1 mega pixels SLR

12.4 effective megapixels
Continuous shooting at 5 fps
8fps shooting at 6.8 megapixels
Faster read/write speed for the memory card
Advanced 3D-Color Matrix Metering II

D2X - Body only £2799 or £117/mth

Kirk L-Bracket for D2H & D2X fitted with wireless £149.95

Nikkor Lenses

DX Fisheye 10.5mm f2.8 ED	£467.00	135mm f2 D DC	£895.00
14mm f2.8 D	£1089.00	180mm f2.8 D IF ED	£559.00
16mm f2.8 Fisheye	£545.00	AF-S 300mm f4 IF ED	£965.00
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20mm f2.8 D	£485.00	AF-S 17-35mm f2.8	£1145.00
24mm f2.8 D	£325.00	AF-S DX 17-55mm f2.8	£949.00
28mm f1.4 D	£1429.00	AF-S DX18-55mm f3.5-5.6G IF ED	£169.00
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200mm f2 VR
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AF-S DX 55-200mm Black or Silver	£149.00
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80-200mm f2.8D ED+CL-43A	£799.00
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Nikon Launch 7 New Cameras - see website

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3x Optical Zoom
35-105mm Zoom

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COOLPIX S4

6 mega pixels
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38-380mm Zoom

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36-126mm Zoom

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3.5x Optical Zoom
24-85mm Zoom

£445 or £19/mth

COOLPIX 8800

8 mega pixels
10x Optical Zoom
35-350mm Zoom

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38-155mm Zoom

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Hahnel HL-80 (Fuji)	£19.99	**Powerstation Rechargables**	
Hahnel HL-60 (Fuji)	£19.99	Ultima	£29.99
Hahnel HL-84 (Konica)	£24.99	Rechargeable CRV-3	£29.99
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For a comprehensive list of Digital Camera accessories from all the major manufacturers visit our website

Nikon

Remote Cord MC-EU1 *for 880, 885, 4300, 990, 995, 4500, 5000, 5700* £99.99

Lenses

Tele Converter Lenses

TC-E2	FULL RANGE ON OUR WEBSITE	£105.99
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TC-E15ED		£149.99
TC-E17ED		£329.99

Wide Converter Lenses

WC-E24	FULL RANGE ON OUR WEBSITE	£75.99
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WC-E68		£139.99
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Please note: *A conversion lens adaptor may be required for all lenses listed here - see website for details*

Batteries & Power

Lith-ion Batteries

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EH-54	£29.99	MB-CP11	£124.99
EH-60	£39.99	MH-53	£24.99
EH-62B	£29.99	MH-53C	£49.99
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EH-63	£29.99	MH-60	£24.99
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Coolstation MV-II for S1/S2/S3/S4 £39.99

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COOLPIX 995/4500	£29.99
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Waterproof Housing

WP-CP1	£169.99
WP-CP2	£169.99

See Website for the full range of Nikon accessories

Canon

See Website for the full range of Canon accessories

Tele Converter Lenses

TC-DC58	£99.00
TC-DC58B	£99.00
TC-DC58N	£99.00
TC-DC58A	£199.00
TC-DC52	£99.00
TC-DC52A	£79.00
TC-DC52B	£99.00
TC-DC10	£99.00

Wide Converter Lenses

WC-DC10	£99.00
WC-DC58A	£99.00
WC-DC58N	£109.00
WC-DC52	£79.00
WC-DC52A	£99.00

Please note: *A conversion lens adaptor is required for all lenses listed here - see website for details*

Battery Grips

BG-E1	£79.99
BG-E2	£149.99
BG-E3	£119.99
BG-ED3	£149.99
BG-E4	£169.99

Lith-ion Batteries

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NB1 LH	£35.00
NB2 LH	£45.00
NB3L / 4L	£29.00
NB 4H / 5H / 6N	£35.00

Battery Chargers

CA DC 20E	£45.00
CA 560	£59.99
CB-5L	£39.99
CB2	from £35.00
CBK4	£40.00
Powershot	£40.00
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Canon AC Adaptors from £45.00 - *See website for details* -

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IXUS	£15.00	SC-DC10	£15.00
SC-PS All	£18.00	SC-DC20	£18.00
DCC 10/20/30	£25.00	SC-DC30	£20.00
DCC 40	£15.00	SC-DC40	£18.00
DCC 50-400	£19.99	SC-DC70	£19.00
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Adobe — See website for all Adobe software

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Photoshop Elements 4.0 (win)	£69.99
Photoshop Elements 4.0 plus	
Premier Elements 2.0 (win) NEW	£99.99
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NEW Adobe After Effects Standard 7.0 Win	£669
NEW Adobe After Effects Standard 7.0 Mac	£669
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NEW Adobe Audition 2.0 Upgrade Win	£105
NEW Adobe Encore DVD 2.0 Win	£279
NEW Adobe Encore DVD 2.0 Upgrade Win	£125

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Canon PIXMA iP5200 £119

Canon PIXMA iP1600 £42

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Leaf Barndoors — Designed to fit onto the standard 21cm reflector £34.99
Reflector — 5 in 1 Reflector Kit from £22.99
NEW Cool Light — A convenient yet economical method of modern studio lighting £69.99
Reflector Bracket — 5 in 1 Reflector Kit from £22.99
Boom Arm — Can be fitted to the CDR751,752 & 753 stands £31.99
Combi Boom Stand — 5 section stand with a built in boom arm £79.99
Flat Panel Reflector & Stand — Ideal for full length portrait or fashion photography £68.99

INTERFIT Background Kits — INT755C £97.99; COR755 £69.00
INTERFIT Background Cloths — Grey 2.4x2.7m £32.99; Grey 2.7x7m £89.99; Blue 2.4x2.7m £32.99; Blue 2.7x7m £89.99; Brown 2.4x2.7m £32.99; Brown 2.7x7m £89.99
Cyber Flash & Digital Flash from £245
Photo Table £179
Studio Light Tents & Pods from £33.99
Honeycomb Grids — Honeycomb Grids £49.00; Adapters £24.99
Collapsible Backgrounds from £55.99
Floor Stand — Enables you to put a flash at low levels on the background £23.99
Infra Red Trigger £38.00
Flashmaster £55.00

INTERFIT Stellar
See the NEW range on our website

Stellar 2 Head Umbrella Kits

150w	£309.99
300w	£429.99
600w	£489.99
1000w	£689.99

Stellar 2 Head Umbrella/Softbox Kits

150w	£389.99
300w	£479.99
600w	£589.99
1000w	£789.99

Stellar 2 Head Twin Softbox Kits

150w	£439.99
300w	£489.99
600w	£639.99
1000w	£789.99

Stellar Flash Heads

150w	£159.99
300w	£199.99
600w	£279.99
1200w	£369.99

INTERFIT PRO

Soft Boxes — £89 to £159
Professional Quartz Halogen Lighting — £167.99 to £499
Professional Lighting Kits — £229 to £1099
Table Top Studio — Everything you need for product and still life photography — from £299

Lastolite professional
Backgrounds & lighting control system
See the range on our website

Umbrella Box from £38.00
Reversibles from £39.95
Dual Duty from £33.99
All in One £43.99
Tri Grip Reflector £56.50
Tri Reflector MK II from £99
Skyline from £134.99
Bottletops from £28.99
Reflectors from £11.50
Reflector Accessories
Backgrounds
Mini Scroll from £139.95
Canvas Scroll £259.99
EZYbox from £124.00
Stand-cum-Bracket for Collapsible EZYVIEW £59.99 £57.95
Background Support System £137.70
Curtain/Muslin from £89.95
Collapsible Reversible £95.00
Collapsible Reversible with train £149.95
Cubilites from £78.50
Baby Power £79.99
Posing Tube £169.99

ephotomaker
Ideal for ebay!
Perfect product photography made easy!
See website
e-photomaker from £49.99

SEKONIC LIGHT METERS & ACCESSORIES
See full specifications on our website

L-208 Twin-master	L-398M Studio Deluxe II	L-308S Flashmate	L-358 Flashmaster	L-558 Dual Master	L-558 Cine Dual
£29.99	£69.99	£89.99	£117.95	£183.99	£305.99	£369.99

L-188 Auto Leader

Radio Receivers from £149.99
Triggering Module £79.99

BOWENS STUDIO LIGHTING
INTERNATIONAL
BOWENS Accessories - see website for our full range
Manfrotto EXPAN Background Systems

BOWENS esprit GEMINI
"Gemini ... one of the most popular studio flash systems in the world" Steve Aves

Gemini 2 Head Standard Kits
Everything you need to shoot in the studio or out on location!
Studio-in-a-box 125w 2 Head Kit £489 or £21mth
250Ws 2 Head £660 or £28mth
500Ws 2 Head £762 or £32mth
750Ws 2 Head £1039 or £44mth
2 HEAD KITS now available £1029

Gemini 2 Head Travel-Pak Kits
The Esprit Gemini range powered by its unique Travel-Pak system offers the complete go-anywhere package for today's photographer on the move.
Kits include Travel Pak
250Ws 2 Head £997 or £42mth
500Ws 2 Head £1072 or £45mth
750Ws 2 Head £1478 or £62mth

Gemini Travel-Pak
Over 200 Flashes on one charge
Compact, Lightweight, Portable Power. Everything offered by the Bowens Travel-Pak. Thanks to this handy battery pack, your Bowens Esprit Gemini Monoblocs can leave the studio to go on location anytime, anywhere!
Battery Only £299 Travel Pak Kit £469

Gemini Heads
BOWENS GEMINI

GM 250	£299
GM 500	£359
GM 750	£479

Esprit DX Flash Units

DX 250	£389
DX 500	£499
DX 750PRO	£699
DX 1000	£699

"A must have" says Steve Aves
pulsar Radio Trigger wire-free photography

Single Unit	£129
Twin Pack	£21

unilite
Kit Contents:
- 2 Cool Running UniLite continuous lights
- 1 Support case
- 2 Lightweight Bowens Lighting Support Stands
- 1 Bowens Cocoon 70 Light Tent
- 1 Cocoon Support Stand
- Power Cords
- Bulbs & Carry Box

£299
The new continuous lighting solution from Bowens

BOWENS esprit DIGITAL DX
Esprit DX 2 Head Standard Kits
"...excellent choice for the studio photographer. The main reason to choose the DX's is the power calibration, in precise tenths of a stop and its remote control operation" Steve Aves
We will always PRICEMATCH on Bowens.

250Ws	£899 or £38mth
500Ws	£999 or £42mth
1000 Fan Cooled	£1249 or £52mth

Jet Steam Wind Machine £669

BOWENS Table Top Studio
Trilite DOT COM kit
Perfect for Film & Digital Cameras
Trilite is a simple to use flourescent light source. It is bright enough to work with digital cameras, cool in operation and gives a soft flattering light, perfect for product shots, still life and portraits
Trilite DOT COM kit £429 or £18mth
see website for full specifications

Generators — Light Banks — Reflectors — Portable Flash — Continuous Light Sources

elinchrom
See the complete range on our website

NEW Classic Compact Set — ELS00 Classic Set To Go from £649
Style RX Sets — Top of the range superior flash units with full remote control - the professionals choice from £1163
Minilite Kit — These are super economy units using a modified Elinchrom flashhead for tungsten (Halostar) imaging. £259
Style FX & BX Sets

FX 100/150	£719
FX 100/400	£759
FX 400/400	£729
BX 100/100	£799
BX 100/400	£839
BX 400/400	£839

Table Kits from £99
Umbrellas from £36
Softboxes from £45
Barndoor Sets from £69
Digital Heads from £595
Power Packs from £549
Fibre Optic Set £999
Compact Flash Heads from £398
Gels, Diffusers & Polarisers from £23
Reflectors from £34
Infrared Trigger £49
Honeycomb Grids from £23
Free Style Packs & Battery from £1099
Remote Control Units from £115

KAISER FOTOTECHNIK
Folding Studio £19.99
Kaiser Studio Out-of-the-box only £129
Digital Shooting Table MKII £349

Manfrotto
Studio Table £599
Falcon Eye Mini Still Life Table £89.99

elinchrom Ranger System
See the complete range on our website
Ranger - the next generation of battery powered studio lighting. Fully compatible with FreeStyle!
Ranger RX Power Packs — Freestyle Heads — Car Charge Adaptors — Car Battery Supplies

Ranger Sets
1x Ranger 1100Ws Pack, 1x FreeLite head, 1x Battery, 1x Global Charger (19293 for Ranger RX or 19483 for Speed & Speed AS), 1x Shoulder Strap

Ranger RX Set	with "S" Head	£1399
Ranger RX Set	with "A" Head	£1449
Ranger RX Speed Set	with "S" Head	£1599
Ranger RX Speed Set	with "A" Head	£1649
Ranger RX Speed AS Set	with "S" Head	£1599
Ranger RX Speed AS Set	with "A" Head	£1649

QUANTUM
Battery Packs for Flashguns & Digital Cameras
Connects to your camera or clips to your belt
Up to 5 times the power of alkaline AA batteries

NEW Q Flash TSD £586
Qpaq-x £459 See website for details
For Canon, Nikon, Fuji, Olympus, Konica Minolta, Sigma visit our website for the compatibility chart and the complete range of batteries and accessories
Highly recommended for Nikon, Canon, Olympus & Minolta Metz Flashguns

Battery 1 Compact™ £149
High performance 6 volt battery for under camera mounting. Light weight power for Digital Cameras and full power flash.
Battery 1 Pus £175
High capacity, rechargeable power pack. For demanding flash and digital applications requiring 6 volts. (4 AA's or equiv.)
Turbo Compact £338
Small, light, fast power for flashes and digital cameras
Turbo £338
High performance / ultra fast recycling for 6 & 9 volt flashes for Qflash T/T2
Turbo 2x2 £429
Smaller and lighter than standard Turbo, dual outputs and one battery pack for both.

NEW FREEXWIRE Digital Set £299 See website
RADIO SLAVE 4i Range - 350'
See website for details

Metz

Professional Flashguns
Composing many different models the Metz flashgun range has a unit for most applications, from a basic manual flashgun - the Metz 20 B-5, small enough to fit over a compact camera up to the accessing Mecablitz 70 MZ-5 which will adapt to most 35mm system cameras, giving a wide range of dedicated facilities.

Standard synch. cables	from £7.05
Coiled synch. cables	from £11.16

Find the right Metz for your camera - Telephone or visit our website

28 CS-2	28 AF-3	34 AF-3	36 CS-2 Digital	36 AF-4
£89	£89	£88	£105	£65
44 AF-3	44 AF-4	44 AF-4i	44 MZ-2	45 CL-4	45 CL-4 Digital
£129	£129	£145	£129	from £275	£310
54 AF-1	54 MZ-4	54 MZ-4i	60 CT-1	60 CT-4 D	76 MZ-5 Digital
£195	from £245	£289	£349	£449	£460

GOSSEN LIGHT METERS & ACCESSORIES
are key features in the whole range, which includes Flash, Ambient Light and Colour Temperature meters.

Starlite	Digi Pro F	Variosix F2	DigiFlash	Spot-master 2	Sixtomat Digital	Digisix	Lunasix 3 S	Colour-master 3F
£334.99	£158.99	£269.99	£107.99	£579.99	£124.99	£79.99	£239.99	£589.99

Recommended by Steve Aves

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

GITZO

CENTRE BALL HEADS

G0077	£27.99
G1077M	£49.99
G1177M	£59.99
G1178M	£89.99
G1277M	£99.99
G1278M	£129.99
G1377M	£139.99
G1378M	£179.99

OFF CENTRE BALL HEADS

G1275M	£99.99
G1276M	£124.99
G1375M	£114.99
G1376M	£154.99
G1575M	£154.99
G1576M	£189.99

RATIONNELLE 3 WAY HEADS

G1171	£84.99
G1171M	£93.99
G1172	£94.99
G1172M	£122.99
G1371M	£107.99

RATIONNELLE LOW PROFILE HEADS

G1270M	£159.99
G1271M	£149.99
G2272M	£164.99

FLUID HEADS

G2380	£139.99
G1380	£569.99

GITZO CLASSIC TRIPODS

G0012	Table tripod	£99.99
G1001	Weekend Standard	£99.99
G1026	Weekend Compact Performance	£156.99 w (3sec)
G1120	Sport Mk2Performance	£158.99 w (3sec)
G1126	Sport Mk2Performance Tatalux	£159.99 w (3sec)
G1118	Sport Mk2Geared 1 Short Column	£209.99 w (3sec)
G1220	Reporter Mk2Performance	£177.99 w (3sec)
G1224	Reporter Mk2	
	Industrial Performance	£187.99 w (3sec)
G1226	Reporter Mk2	
	Compact Performance	£189.99 w (3sec)
G1212	Reporter Mk2Performance	£249.99 w (3sec)
G1320	Studex Mk2Performance	£239.99 w (3sec)
G1326	Studex Mk2Compact Performance	£299.99 w (3sec)
G1312	Studex Mk2Performance	£309.99 w (3sec)

GITZO SYSTEMATIC TRIPODS

G1340	Inter Pro Studex Mk2Performance	£219.99 w (3sec)
G1340V	Inter Pro Studex c/w G1422	£244.99 w (3sec)
G1345	Inter Pro Studex Mk2	
	Compact Performance	£249.99 w (3sec)
G1325	Mountaineer Studex -	
	Carbon Fibre 3 Section	£399.99 w (3sec)
G1325V	Mountaineer Studex -	
	Carbon Fibre 3 Section	£449.99 w (3sec)
G1348	Mountaineer Studex-	
	Carbon Fibre 4 Section	£479.99 w (2sec)
	as above with G1318 centre column	£547.99 w (2sec)
G1410	Pro Studex Mk2 Performance	£259.99 w (3sec)
G1415	Pro Studex Mk2	
	Compact Performance	£249.99 w (3sec)
G1500	Tele Studex Mk2 Performance	£299.99 w (3sec)
G1504	Tele Studex Mk2 Geant Performance	£399.99 w (3sec)
G1505	Tele Studex Mk2	
	Compact Performance	£299.99 w (3sec)
G1515	Tele Studex Mk2	
	Performance Industrial	£299.99 w (3sec)
G1548	Mountaineer Super Studex-	
	Carbon Fibre	£539.99 w (2sec)
G1548GT	Series 5 mountaineer	
	Geant-Carbon fibre SPECIAL OFFER	£529.99 w (2sec)

Gitzo Video Tripods & Bags - see website

Performance meets perfection...

Stronger, lighter, quicker

Gitzo have introduced the next generation carbon fibre tripod – the Carbon 'GX' – with a new, improved tubing, which is stronger, lighter and as resistant as its predecessor.

30% Lighter

	Max Load	Leg Sect			Max Load	Leg Sect	
G1155T	2kg	5	£399	G1257	8kg	3	£395
G1158T	4.5kg	4	£375	G1257G	8kg	3	£425
G0057	2.5kg	3	£229	G1257LVL	8kg	3	£465
G1057	3kg	3	£275	G1258	8kg	4	£455
G1058	3kg	4	£310	G1258GG	8kg	4	£499
G1157	4.5kg	3	£329	G1258LVL	8kg	4	£535
G1157G	4.5kg	3	£355	G2257	8kg	3	£419
G1158	4.5kg	4	£379	G2258	8kg	4	£469
G1158G	4.5kg	4	£419				

See website for details

GITZO MOUNTAINEER CARBON FIBRE TRIPODS

FREE HEAD with selected tripods - see website

G0027	Mountaineer Standard	£199.99 w (3sec)
G1127	Mountaineer Sport 3 Section	£289.00 w (3sec)
G1127G	as above with geared column	£309.00 w (3sec)
G1128	Mountaineer Sport 4 Section	£329.00 w (4sec)
G1128G	as above with geared column	£359.00 w (4sec)
G1227G	as above with geared column	£359.00 w (3sec)
G1327	Mountaineer Studex 3 Section	£429.99 w (3sec)

GITZO EXPLORER TRIPODS

G2220	Explorer Classic 3 Section	£174.99 w (3sec)
G2228	Explorer Carbon Fibre 4 Section	£439.99 w (3sec)

GITZO MONOPODS

G1566	Aluminium	£89.99
G1564	Aluminium	£79.99
G1564L	Aluminium	£89.99
G1588	Carbon Fibre	£189.99 w (3sec)
G1578	Carbon Fibre	£169.99 w (3sec)
G1568	Carbon Fibre	£149.99 w (3sec)
G1560	Monorek with Centre Ball Head	£79.99

BENBO

For over 35 years Benbo tripods have offered photographers a unique product. Whether used in the standard configuration with a vertical centre column, down at ground level with legs splayed out, or with one of the legs pointing upward finding support from a tree or wall, Benbo tripods can always be relied upon to give complete stability.

Trekker Mk2

The Trekker will support the majority of modern SLRs and Medium format cameras.

• Wt: 2kg

Benbo Trekker Mk2 Tripod £84.99

Benbo Trekker Mk2 Tripod Kit - includes... Compact Ball & Socket Head & Carry Bag £102.99

Classic Tripod No.1

These heavy-duty tripods offer great stability and are capable of supporting the heaviest of camera equipment

• Wt: 3.4kg

Benbo Classic Tripod No.1 ..... £109.99

Benbo Classic Tripod No.1 Kit - Includes Compact Ball & Socket Head and Carry Bag £189.99

Ben 299 Compact

Standard ball & socket head supplied with Trekker Kits, its 25mm ball will support the majority of 35mm SLR and Medium Format cameras.

£37.99

Ben 300 Compact

As above with a revolving base which can be adjusted and locked independently from the ball joint.

£65.99

Ben 306 Professional

A highly specified ball & socket head with a 35mm ball capable of supporting both 35mm SLRs even when equipped with long lenses and all current Medium Format Cameras.

£79.99

Mini Trekker

The mini Trekker has shorter fixed length legs. This lightweight compact tripod is ideal for photographing flowers and low-level nature subjects, or indoors as a tabletop tripod.

Wt: 1.5kg

£59.99

Classic Tripod No.2

Taller version of the Classic Tripod No.1

• Wt: 3.75kg

Benbo Classic Tripod No.2 ..... £129.99

Benbo Classic Tripod No.2 Kit - Includes Pro Ball & Socket Head and Carry Bag £199.99

Quick Release Platforms

BEN 310 (for BEN 299/300) £17.99

BEN 311 Spare plate (for BEN 310) £7.99

Carry Bags

BEN 503 Trekker £21.99

BEN 601 No1 ..... £27.99

BEN 502 No 2 ..... £29.99

Trekker Monopod

This two-section monopod utilises the 180° tilting camera mount from the Trekker tripod, making it one of the most versatile monopods on the market. Wt: 600gms

Benbo Trekker Monopod £24.99

MILLER Tripods

See website

1637 DS 5 Solo DV Alloy	850 DS 20 2-Stage Alloy System	1531 Arrow 30 Single Stage Sprinter System
£581	£1007	£2099

Mini Tripods | Ball & Socket Heads

See the complete range on our website

NEW Giottos Innovator

Aluminium £109.99

Carbon Fibre £199.99

B1e QR ..... £269 B2 ..... £549

B1 QR ..... £315 Universal plate £39

B1g QR £419

SLIK TRIPODS

See the complete range on our website

3000X c/w 3 Way head £99.99

5000X c/w 3 Way head £129.99

7000X c/w 4 Way head REDUCED £119.99

800 Ball & Socket £69.99

Multi arms inc 2 pan head £119.99

Slimpod £21.99

Easypod £49.99

Handypod II £69.99

AT 2100 Action Head £85.95

Wimberley

NEW MKII version

Gimbal Type MkII £499

Gimbal Type £410

SideKick £235

Quick release £99

Quick release plates for collared lenses from £47

Built in QR Clamp

NEW THE PLAMP

Wimbledon 'giant' Clamp £29.95

UNI-LOC Products

We sell the complete range see our website

FALCONEYES TRIPODS

See the range on our website

Optech

New waterproof cover that will protect your camera and large lens

Black £79.99

Light Grey £79.99

Protective Covers from £52.99

Wildlife Watching Products

Dome Hides — Kevin Keatley

Advantage leaf	Camouflage	Real tree snow
4' £177.50 5' £208.95	4' £177.50 5' £208.95	4' £177.50 5' £208.95

Mini Dome hide	lens covers	Bag hides
c/w built in ground sheet Advantage & Camouflage	Ultra light/compact reversible double layer of polycotton (with a choice of 5 patterns)	Lightweight 400g - not shower proof £44
£175.85	£16 - £36	Medium weight 1.3g - Shower proof £54.60

See the complete range on our website

Bean Bags (filled) — Camera Covers — New Below Zero Camera Cover

NEW C60 Lens hood cover See website

Waterproof available in five colours: *Olive, Camouflage, Advantage, Kaki, Desert pattern*

1kg £18.90

1.5kg £24.15

2kg £30.45

Ultra light/compact reversible doubled layer of polycotton (with choice of 5 patterns)

£18.90

Reduces battery drain in 35mm cameras and cold weather shut down in digital cameras.

Heated Camera Cover for cold weather £24.15

Single use 7 hour heat pads, packs of two £1.70

Bean Bags

Double Bean Bag 2-3kg unfilled £18.90

Double Bean Bag 2-1.5kg unfilled £27.30

as above filled £45.15

NEW Fold Out Padded Seat £25.70

BIVI TUNNEL TENT

£136.50

Leafcut Scrim £63.00

Manfrotto Mag Fiber

The outdoor tripod, back in it's natural habitation

New strong and more stable ...

Manfrotto 190 and 055 series, built with specially selected materials like carbon fiber, aluminium, nylon polymer and magnesium die cast to ensure extreme lightness, absolute stability and durability in time. Quick release of one is guaranteed by quick release adjustments for instant height and leg angle adjustments.

190 MF3	58cm	11cm	114.5cm	142cm	1.6kg	4kg	12?/12?V3	£189.95
190 MF4	46cm	11cm	113.5cm	137cm	1.6kg	4kg	12?/12?V3	£199.95
055 MF3	64cm	11cm	124.5cm	169cm	2kg	7kg	12?/12?V3	£209.95
055 MF4	54cm	11cm	130.5cm	162cm	2kg	7kg	12?/12?V3	£219.95

694 Monopod 4 section	53cm	165cm	0.58kg	5kg	£89.95
695 Monopod 5 section	46cm	160cm	0.59kg	5kg	£99.95

DIGIT TRIPODS Reduced from £50

MANFROTTO CARBON FIBRE TRIPODS

MN190VMF	190VMF Carbon Fibre Tripod c/w 700 RC2	£229.00
MN190VMF	190VMF Carbon Fibre Tripod c/w 701 RC2	£249.00
MN055VMF	055VMF Carbon Fibre Tripod c/w 700 RC2	£249.00
MN055VMF	055VMF Carbon Fibre Tripod c/w 701 RC2	£269.00
MN055MF3	MF3 Magfibre Carbon Fibre Tripod NEW MODEL	£219.99
MN055MF4	MF4 Magfibre Carbon Fibre Tripod NEW MODEL	£229.99
MN190MF3	MF3 Magfibre Carbon Fibre Tripod NEW MODEL	£189.99
MN190MF4	MF4 Magfibre Carbon Fibre Tripod NEW MODEL	£199.99

MANFROTTO BALL HEADS

MN322RC2	Heavy Duty Grip Action Ball Head New	£89.95
MN222	Grip Action Joystick Head	£69.95
MN322RC1	Heavy Duty Grip Action Ball Head	£89.95
MN468	Pro Ball Head	£169.95
MN468RC2	Pro Ball Head with RC2 System	£179.95
MN468RC4	Pro Ball Head with RC4 System	£189.95
MN482	Micro Ball Head	£25.00
MN482LCD	Micro Ball Head with Hot Shoe mount	£29.95
MN484	Mini Ball Head	£34.95
MN484RC2	Mini Ball Head with RC2 System	£39.95
MN486	Compact Ball Head	£44.95
MN486RC2	Compact Ball Head with RC2 System	£49.95
MN488	Midi Ball Head	£54.95
MN488RC0	Midi Ball Head with RC0 System	£59.95
MN488RC2	Midi Ball Head with RC2 System	£64.95
MN488RC4	Midi Ball Head with RC4 System	£69.95
MN490	Maxi Ball Head	£134.95
MN490RC4	Maxi Ball Head with RC4 System	£138.95

PRO BALL HEADS HYDROSTATIC from £179.95 see website

MANFROTTO THREE-WAY HEADS

MN029	Standard Head	£69.95	
MN054	3D Junior Head	£24.95	
MN115	3D Super Junior Head	£29.95	
MN141	Basic Pan & Tilt Head	£44.95	
MN229	3D Pro Head	£139.95	
MN128RC4	Pro Compact Head	£89.95	
MN393RC	Junior Head	£33.95	
MN293RC2	Junior Head Black	£39.95	
MN460MG	3D Magnesium Head	£49.95	

MN141RC Basic Pan & Tilt Head with Quick Rel. £53.95

MN141CNAT Basic Pan & Tilt Head with Quick Rel Gn £54.95

MANFROTTO GEARED HEADS

MN400	Geared Head	£439.95	
MN405	Pro Geared Head	£719.95	
MN410	Junior Geared Head	£139.95	

MANFROTTO VIDEO HEADS

MN128LP	Micro Video Head	£59.95
MN128RC	Micro Video Head with Quick Release	£59.00
MN128RCNAT	Micro Video Head Green	£59.00
MN390RC2	Junior Video Head Black	£39.95
MN390RC2NAT	Junior Head Green	£39.95
MN501	Pro Video Head	£124.95
MN700RC2	Mini Video Head Black	£64.95
MN701RC-2	Fluid Video Head	£79.95
MN700RC2NAT	Mini Video Head Green	£64.95

MANFROTTO BIRDWATCHING KITS

MN701RC2190V	'View' 190 V c/w 701 RC2	£139.00
MN701RC2190MVF	'View' 190 MVF c/w 701 RC2 Carbon Fibre	£229.00
MN701RC2055V	'View' 055 V c/w 701 RC2	£159.00
MN701RC2055MVF	'View' 055 MVF c/w 701 RC2 Carbon Fibre	£249.00

MANFROTTO PHOTO TRIPODS

MN458B	NEOTEC NEW	£248.95
MN028	Tritan Tripod	£173.95
MN028B	Tritan Tripod Black	£173.95
MN055V	055V c/w 700 RC2 NEW MODEL	£149.00
MN055V	055V c/w 701 RC2 NEW MODEL	£169.00
MN055A	055 Basic Tripod	£85.95
MN055AB	055 Basic Tripod Black	£89.95
MN055CL	055 Classic Tripod	£101.95
MN055CLB	055 Classic Tripod Black	£106.95
MN055PRO	055 Pro Tripod	£123.95
MN055PROB	055 Pro Tripod Black	£128.95
MN190V	190V c/w 700 RC2 NEW MODEL	£129.00
MN190V	190V c/w 701 RC2 NEW MODEL	£149.00
MN058	058 Triaut Tripod	£196.95
MN058B	058 Triaut Tripod Black	£205.95
MN161MK2	161 Super Pro Tripod	£299.95
MN161MK2B	161 Super Pro Tripod Black	£299.95
MN190CL	190 Classic Tripod	£79.95
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MN190D	190 Basic Tripod	£69.95
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	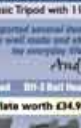	
Wt: 2lbs	Wt: 2lbs	Prevents the ball from dropping in the socket and damaging your equipment

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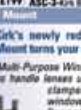

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SB-800 Flashgun	£289.99
MD-D100 Grip	£199.99
Batteries from	£29.99

Konica Minolta Accessories

NP-400 Battery	£49.99
NP-700 Battery	£29.99
NP-200 Battery	£29.99
NP-800 Battery	£39.99
NP-900 Battery	£24.99
AC-11 Mains Adaptor	£49.99
RS-1000L Remote Cable	£54.99
RC-1000S Remote Cable	£34.99
RC-3IR Remote Control	£19.99
VC-D7 Vertical Grip	£139.99
CS-70 Case	£49.00
Flashgun 3600HS(D)	£149.99
Flashgun 5600HS(D)	£269.99
Flashgun 2500(D)	£99.99

COMPACT CAMERAS

FREE SHIPPING

Canon

• Powershot A410	£99.95
• Powershot A520	£137.95
• *with Selphy 510 Printer*	£209.99
• Powershot A610	£199.95
• Powershot A620	£239.95
• Powershot S60	£259.99
• Powershot S70	£279.98
• Powershot S80	£339.98
• Powershot S1 IS	£189.99
• Powershot S2 IS	£319.99
• Powershot Pro 1	£439.99
including DCC-30 Case & 1 gig Microdrve	
• Ixus iZoom	£229.99
• Ixus 50	£209.99
• *with Selphy 510 Printer*	£259.99
• Ixus 55	£239.99
• Ixus 750	£279.99
• Ixus Wireless	£299.99

Fuji

- A400 New £104.99
- A500 New £119.99
- F470 New £184.99
- V10 New £229.99
- E900 + 128mb New £269.99
- F11 ..... £239.99
- Z1 ..... £169.99
- S5600 ..... £224.99
- S9500 ..... £399.99

Konica Minolta

- A200 ..... £319.99
- Z6 ..... £219.99
- Z10 ..... £147.99

Nikon

- S1 ..... £199.99
- S2 ..... £229.99
- S3 ..... £249.99
- S4 ..... £259.99
- P2 ..... £239.99
- 4600 ..... £119.95
- 5600 ..... £139.95
- 7600 ..... £199.95
- 7900 ..... £229.95
- 8400 ..... £399.95
- 8700 ..... £299.95

Olympus

Two Years Warranty

- C460 GWO £84.99
- FE110 ..... £109.95
- MJU410GWO £129.9
- MJU500 ..... £159.9
- C60 GWO £149.99
- MJU500 GWO £139.95
- MJU600 ..... £179.95
- MJU700 (New) £189.95
- MJU720 (New) £239.95
- MJU800 ..... £199.95
- MJU810 (New) £259.95
- MJU Mini S £139.95
- IR300 ..... £203.95
- SP350 ..... £239.95
- SP500 ..... £239.95

GWO= Good Working Order-:Reps Samples, Show Stock etc Fully serviced and Guaranteed.

Panasonic

- FZ30 ..... £459.99
- FZ5 ..... £239.99

Pentax

- Optio S60 ..... £169.99
- Optio S6 ..... £219.99
- Optio WPi £189.99
- Optio A10 (New) ..... £phone
- Optio E10 (New) ..... £phone

Samsung

- Pro 815 ..... £459.99

Sony

- S600 ..... £149.99
- W5 ..... £169.95
- W15 Black, Case £179.9
- P200 Silver £209.9
- P200 Black £219.99
- W7 ..... £209.95
- W17 Black Case 256mb £219.95
- T5 Black or Silver £214.95
- T7 Black or Silver £259.95
- H1 ..... £269.95
- T9 Black or Silver £279.95
- N1 ..... £309.95
- M2 ..... £319.95
- R1 ..... £554.95

Sony Batteries

BG1	£32.99
FE1	£44.99
FM50	£54.99
FR1	£44.99
FT1	£42.99

COMPACT ACCESSORIES

Canon

Batteries & AC Adaptors

NB-1L Battery for Ixus	£34.99
NB-4L Battery for Ixus 40/50	£29.99
NB-2/3L Battery for Powershot	£39.99
NB-5H Battery for S10/S20	£29.99
BP-511 Battery for D60/10D/G5	£49.99
ACK500/600/700	£44.99
ACK-900	£29.99
ACK-E2	£59.99

Lenses & Accessories

WC-DC58 Wide G1/2	£99.99
WC-DC58N Wide G3/5	£99.99
TC-DC58 Tele G1/2	£69.99
TC-DC58N Tele G3/5	£69.99
LA-DC58 Lens Adapt. G1/2	£14.99
LA-DC58B Lens Adapt. G3/5	£14.99
TC-DC52 Tele A1/2/3/40/70	£79.99
TC-DC52A Tele A80	£69.99
TC-DC58A Tele Pro-1	£149.99
WC-DC52 Wide A1/2/3/40/70/80	£69.99
LA-DC52B Lens Adapt. A30/40	£12.99
LA-DC52 Lens Adapt. A10/20	£12.99
LA-DC52C Lens Adapt. A70	£14.99
LA-DC52D Lens Adapt. A80	£14.99
LA-DC58B Lens Adapt. Pro-1	£14.99
LA-DC58C Lens Adapt. Pro-1	£34.99
LA-DC58D Lens Adapt. Pro-1	£24.99
LA-DC10 Lens Adapt+ S1 IS	£24.99
WP-DC10 u/water for Ixus 2 ~~£139.99~~	£99

Fuji

Batteries & AC Adaptors

AC Mains Adaptor 3 or 5V	£29.99
NP100 Battery	£29.99
NP80 Battery	~~£42.99~~ £29
NP60 Battery	£34.99
NP40 Battery	£34.99
NP30 Battery	£34.99
BC80 Charger	£54.99
BC60 Charger	£49.99

Minolta

Batteries & AC Adaptors

NP-400 Battery	£49.99
NP-700 Battery	£29.99
NP-800 Battery	£39.99
NP-900 Battery	£19.99
BP-400 Battery Grip for A1/2	~~£99.99~~ £50
Lithium Batteries F100/200/300	£19.99
Lithium Battery Dimage X	£29.99
AC-2L Mains Adaptor	£59.99
AC-11 Mains Adaptor	£49.99
External Battery Kit EBP-100	£189.99

Accessories

RS-1000L Remote Cable	£54.99
RC-1000S Remote Cable	£34.99
RC-3IR Remote Control	£19.99

Lenses

ZCW100 WA	£69.99
ZCW200 WA	£69.99
ZCW300 WA	£79.99
ACW100 WA	£139.99
ACT100 WA	£139.99

Flashguns

Flashgun 3600HS(D)	£139.99
Flashgun 5600HS(D)	£259.99
Flashgun 2500(D)	£99.99

Nikon

Accessories

SC-17TTL Sensor Cable	£59.99
Multi Flash Bracket SK-E900	~~£69.99~~ £39
Multi Flash Adaptor	£29
MC-EU1 Remote Control	£79.99
Slide Copier ES-E28	£79.99
MB-E5700 Grip	~~£119.99~~ £99

Batteries & AC Adaptors

EN-MH1-B2	£9.99
EN-EL1	£34.99
EN-EL2	£39.99
EN-EL7	£39.99
EN-4	£89.99
EH-30	~~£49.99~~ £29
EH-31/EH21	~~£49.99~~ £29
EH53AC	£29.99
MH-16 Quick Charger	£199.99

Lenses & Accessories

URE 2 - 12 Lens Rings	each £9.99
Wideangle WC-E24	£69.99
Wideangle WC-E63	~~£99.99~~ £79
Wideangle WC-E68	£119.99
Wideangle WC-E80	£129.99
Fisheye FC-E8	~~£209.99~~ £149
Telephoto TC-E15ED	~~£129.99~~ £99
Telephoto TC-E2	~~£99.99~~ £69.99
Telephoto TC-E3ED	~~£219.99~~ £179
HR-E5700 Lenshood	£19.99
HN-CP10 Lenshood for 5400	£19.99

Olympus

Batteries & AC Adaptors

AC Mains Adaptor C-6/7AG	£49.99
PS-BLM1	£69.99
LB-01E	£9.99
Li-12B	£19.99
Li-30B	£29.99

Accessories

RM-CB1 Remote Control	£54.99
RM-1 Remote Control	£19.99
Aqua Housing PFL-02 (FL20)	£159.99
Aqua Housing PT-02 (C800)	£39.99
Aqua Housing PT-014 (C50)	£129.99
Aqua Housing PT-017 (C350)	£89.99
Aqua Housing PT-019 (5000)	£159.99
Aqua Housing PT-020 (5060)	£159.99
Aqua Housing PT-021 (C360/460)	£119.99
Aqua Housing PT-022 (C765/770)	£159.99
Aqua Housing PT-023 (C8080)	£189.99
Aqua Housing PT-024 (C765/770)	£139.99
Aqua Housing PT-022 (C765/770)	£159.99
Aqua Housing PT-026 (MJU500)	£139.99
Aqua Housing PT-027 (C7070)	£159.99
Housing CW-PC01 for MJU Mini/S	£29.99

Flash

External Flash FL50	£259.99
External Flash FL20	£99.99

Lenses & Accessories

TCON14 Telephoto 1.4x	~~£49.99~~ £29
TCON17 Telephoto 1.7x	~~£89.99~~ £69
TCON17C Telephoto 1.7x	~~£109.99~~ £79
WCON 07 Wide 07x	£139.99
WCON 07C Wide 07x	£149.99
MCON 40 Macro	£68.99
CLA-7 Adaptor	£34.99
CLA-6 Adaptor	£29.99
CLA-4/5 Adaptor	£19.99
TCON-14B 200 mm lens	£179.99
WCON-08B 28mm lens	£169.99
5060 Filter UV/Pol/Protect	£29.99
5060 LCD Hood	£19.99

Sigma Flashguns

Canon or Nikon

- EF500 Super DG TTL £149.99
- EF500 ST DG TTL £99.99
- EM 140 DG Ring Flash Macro ..£269.99

Neg & Slide Scanners

MINOLTA

- Scan Multi II (Medium Format) £799.99
- AD-10 APS Adaptor £89.99

NIKON

- Coolscan V £449.99
- Coolscan 5000 ..... £779.99
- Coolscan 9000 ..... £2199.99

REFLECTA

- iScan 3600 ..... £99.99
- Crystalscan 4000 ..... £149.99
- Crystalscan 7200 ..... £179.99
- ProScan 4000 ..... £299.99
- RPS 3600 Pro £299.99
- RPS 7200 Pro £359.99
- DigitDia 4000 ..... £579.99

Sony R1
£554.99
Free Shipping

Olympus E-500 14-45 £549.99
Twin Zoom Kit £599.99
Free Shipping

Epson Pixma 6600D
New stand-Alone A4 Photo Printer
£149.99

Minolta 7D
Body Only **£499.99**
Body/lens Kit 17-35 £669.99
Free Shipping

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

Canon 20D
Lens Kit 18/55
£799.99
Body only **£749.99**

Samsung Pro 815
£459.99
Free Shipping

Canon 350D
Lens Kit 18/55 **£569.99**
Body only **£529.99**
Free Shipping

Nikon D50 18/55 Zoom
£429.99
Body **£349.99**
Free Shipping

Flatbed Scanners

CANON

- 4200F £69.99
- 8400F £139.99
- 9900F £249.99
- 9950F £279.99
- LiDE 500F £109.99

EPSON
Perfection

- 3490 Photo £79.99
- 3590 Photo £109.99
- 4490 Photo £189.99
- 4990 Photo £349.99

MICROTEK
ScanMaker

- 6800 Plus £90
- i700 ..... £289.99
- i900 ..... £569.99

Printers

CANON

- Photo i9950 ..... £399.99
- Pixma IP4200 ..... £79.99
- Pixma IP5200 ..... £109.99
- Pixma IP5200R £149.99
- Pixma IP6600D £149.99
- Pixma IP6220D £99.99
- Pixma IP6210D £69.99
- Pixma IP8500 ..... £229.99
- i6500 ..... £279.99
- Pixma IP90 ..... £184.99
- DS700 ..... £99.99

EPSON

- PictureMate 500 ..... £139.99
- Photo R220 ..... £64.99
- Photo R240 ..... £94.99
- Photo R320 ..... £129.99
- Photo R340 ..... £139.99
- Photo R800 ..... £218.99
- Photo R1800 ..... £359.99
- Photo R2400 ..... £539.99

Dye Sub Printers

CANON

- SELPHY CP510 ..... £79.99
  with Ixus 50 Camera £259.99
  with PS A520 Camera £209.99
- SELPHY CP710 ..... £99.99

KP-36IP Paper £11.99
KP-118IP Paper £27.99

FUJI

Printpix CX400 ..... £299.99
RK-SD40 40 x 6/4 Paper Roll £13.99

HI-TOUCH

- 641PS £179.99

50 sheets of 4x6 ..... £16.99

- 730PS *£297.99

60 sheets of 4x6 ..... £17.99
30 sheets of 6x8 ..... £19.99
30 sheets of 5x7 ..... £14.99

OLYMPUS

- P440 ..... £329.99
- P11 ..... £99.99

P-A5NE A5 x 25 sheets £29.99
P-A4NE A4 x 100 sheets £79.99
P-RBNE Ribbon for 50 x A4 ..... £59.99
P-P40 for P10/11 x 40 sheets £19.99
P-P100 for P10/11 x 100 sheets £29.99

Memory Cards

Dane Elec • 10 Year Warranty

CF 32MB x 12 ..... £6.80
CF 32MB x 12 ..... £7.99
CF 64MB x 12 ..... £9.49
CF 128MB x 12 ..... £12.49
CF 256MB x 12 ..... £17.49
CF 512MB x 12 ..... £29.49
CF 1GB x 12 ..... £49.49
SD 64MB x 12 ..... £10.49
SD 128MB x 12 ..... £14.49
SD 256mb x 12 ..... £24.49
SD 512mb x 12 ..... £34.49
SD 1GB x 12 ..... £59.99
SD 128MB x 60 ..... £19.49
SD 256MB x 60 ..... £29.49
SD 512MB x 60 ..... £39.49
SD 1Gig x 60 ..... £59.49

Kingston • Lifetime Warranty

CF 128MB x 12 Standard £8.99
CF 256MB x12 Standard £12.99
CF 512MB x 12 Standard £20.99
CF 1GB x 12 Standard £39.99
CF 512MB x 50 Elite Pro £26.99
CF 1GB x 50 Elite Pro £49.99
CF 2GB x 50 Elite Pro £99.99
CF 1GB x 133 Ultimate £59.99
CF 2GB x 133 Ultimate £119.99
SD 128MB x 12 Standard £8.99
SD 256MB x 12 Standard £12.99
SD 512MB x 12 Standard £19.99
SD 1GB x 12 Standard £37.99
SD 256MB x 50 Elite Pro £14.99
SD 512MB x 50 Elite Pro £27.99
SD 1GB x 50 Elite Pro £44.99
SD 512MB x 133 Ultimate £30.99
SD 1GB x 133 Ultimate £69.99
SD 2GB x 133 Ultimate £109.99

Microdrives

1 GB Hitachi Special £34.99
2 GB Hitachi £59.99
4 GB Hitachi £99.99
Travel Kits ..... ~~£19.99~~ £9

Lexar 5 Year Warranty

CF 128MB x 12 ..... £17.99
CF 256MB x 12 ..... £22.99
CF 512MB x 12 ..... £34.99
CF 256MB x 40 Platinum £24.99
CF 512MB x 40 Platinum £36.99
CF 1GB x 40 Platinum £64.99
CF 512MB x 80 Pro £39.99
CF 1GB x 80 Pro £69.99
CF 2GB x 80 Pro £139.99
SM 64MB Classic £9.49
SM 1Gig Pro £49.80

Sandisk 10 Year Warranty

CF 256mb Ultra II £19.99
CF 512mb Ultra II £28.49
CF 1gig Ultra II £49.49
CF 2gig Ultra II £84.49
CF 1gig Extreme III £55.49
CF 2gig Extreme III £95.49
SD 512mb Ultra II £29.49
SD 1gig Ultra II £47.49
SD 1gig Extreme III £55.99
MS 256 Pro £17.99
MS 512 Pro £27.99
MS 1gig Pro £44.99
MS 2gig Pro £79.99
MS 256 Pro Duo £19.99
MS 512 Pro Duo £29.99
MS 1gig Pro Duo £49.99
MS 512 Pro Ultra 2 ..... £34.99
MS 1gig Pro Ultra 2 ..... £54.99
MS 2 gig Pro Ultra 2 ..... £99.99
MS 1gig Pro Ultra 2 Duo £59.99
MS 1gig Pro Extreme 3 ..... £64.99

Olympus xD - Picture Card

32mb £6.99
64mb £9.99
256mb £17.99
512mb £32.99
1gig £52.99

Fuji xD - Picture Card

16mb £3.99
32mb £6.99
64mb £9.99
128mb £12.99
256mb £17.99
512mb £32.99
1gig £52.99

Card Readers

MICROTECH CameraMate

CF •CF2 MD SM £9.99
MS •CF CF2 MD £9.99
PARALLEL PORT for SM only £19.99
PARALLEL PORT for CF only £19.99
MICROTECH ZIO SM or CF £9.99
FUJI FIREWIRE DUAL CF/SM £39.99
LEXAR ALL-IN-1 READER £19.99
Smart Media Floppy Disk Adaptor £29.99
DFUSB SM £5
Dual CF and SM £9.99
xD £12.99
SD/MM £19.99
SANDISK SD/MM USB2 ..... £19.99

General Accessories

Ohnar Digi Slide Duplicator £69.9
Ohnar Digi Zoom Slide Duplicator £89.99
Sunpak Remotelite 2 Flash £29.99
Kenro Digital Screen Protect Kit £3.99

Kinetronics

Optics First Aid Kit £18.95
Camera CleanCam Kit £10.95
Digital Scanner Glass Cleaning Kit ..£10.95

Tripods

Pocket Tripod £3.99
Velbon CX-444 ..... £29.99
Velbon CX-560 ..... £39.99
Velbon Maxi 347E £49.99
VelbonMini-2 ..... £19.99
Velbon UB-40 Monopod ..... £19..99
Velbon UB-43 Monopod £27.99
Slik XL £19.99
Manfrotto 714SHB £49.99
Manfrotto 714B £54.99
Manfrotto 718B £64.99
Manfrotto 718SHB £59.99

Filters

Cokin Digital Filter Kit G300 ..... £19.99
Cokin Digital Filter Kit G350 ..... £24.99
Cokin Digital Filter Kit G400 ..... £34.99
28mm Lens Protection £12.99
43mm Lens Protection £12.99
43mm Neutral Density £19.99
Hoya 43mm Skylight 1B £16.99
Hoya 43mm Pol £18.99
Hoya 49mm UV/Haze £8.99
Hoya 49mm Skylight 1B £9.99
Hoya 49mm Pol £18.99
Hoya 49mm Warm CPol £38.99
Hoya 49mm Infra Red R72 ..... £28.99
Hoya 52mm CPol 1 Digipro £79.99
Hoya 52mm Protect 1 Digipro £29.99
Hoya 52mm UV/Haze £8.99
Hoya 52mm Skylight 1B £9.99
Hoya 52mm CPol £25.99
Hoya 52mm Pol £19.99
Hoya 52mm CPol 1 Digipro £79.99
Hoya 52mm Protect 1 Digipro £29.99
Hoya 52mm Warm CPol £42.99
Hoya 52mm Infra Red R72 ..... £39.99
Hoya 55mm UV/Haze £11.99
Hoya 55mm Skylight 1B £12.99
Hoya 55mm CPol £27.99
Hoya 55mm Pol £22.99
Hoya 55mm CPol 1 Digipro £32.99
Hoya 55mm Protect 1 Digipro £29.99
Hoya 55mm Warm CPol £44.99
Hoya 55mm Infra Red R72 ..... £34.99
Hoya 58mm UV/Haze 11.99
Hoya 58mm Skylight 1B £12.99
Hoya 58mm CPol £32.99
Hoya 58mm Pol £24.99
Hoya 58mm CPol 1 Digipro £89.99
Hoya 58mm Protect 1 Digipro £34.99
Hoya 58mm Warm CPol £48.99
Hoya 58mm Infra Red R72 ..... £38.99
Hoya 62mm UV/Haze £14.99
Hoya 62mm Skylight 1B £15.99
Hoya 62mm CPol £44.99
Hoya 62mm Pol £26.99
Hoya 62mm CPol 1 Digipro £99.99
Hoya 62mm Protect 1 Digipro £39.99
Hoya 62mm Warm CPol £55.99
Hoya 62mm Infra Red R72 ..... £44.99
Hoya 67mm UV/Haze £19.99
Hoya 67mm Skylight 1B £21.99
Hoya 67mm CPol £49.99
Hoya 67mm Pol £32.99
Hoya 67mm CPol 1 Digipro ..£114.99
Hoya 67mm Protect 1 Digipro £44.99
Hoya 67mm Warm CPol £64.99
Hoya 67mm Infra Red R72 ..... £64.99
Hoya 72mm UV/Haze £24.99
Hoya 72mm Skylight !B £26.99
Hoya 72mm CPol £54.99
Hoya 72mm Pol £44.99
Hoya 72mm Warm CPol £74.99
Hoya 72mm Infra Red R72 ..... £99.99
Hoya 72mm CPol 1 Digipro £74.99
Hoya 72mm Protect 1 Digipro £49.99
Hoya 77mm UV/Haze £29.99
Hoya 77mm Skylight 1B £32.99
Hoya 77mm CPol £59.99
Hoya 77mm Pol £54.99
Hoya 77mm Warm CPol £89.99
Hoya 77mm Infra Red R72 ..£169.99
Hoya 77mm CPol 1 Digital £139.99
Hoya 77mm Protect 1 Digital ..£49.99
Hoya 82mm UV/Haze £39.99
Hoya 82mm Skylight 1B £44.99
Hoya 82mm CPol £79.99
Hoya 82mm Pol £77.99
Hoya 82mm CPol 1 Digital £169.99
Hoya 82mm Protect 1 Digital ..£69.99
Hoya 86mm Skylight 1B £64.99
Hoya 58mm Pro UV/Haze £27.99
Hoya 58mm Pro Skylight 1B £29.99
Hoya 58mm Pro CPol £69.99
Hoya 62mm Pro UV/Haze £29.99
Hoya 62mm Pro Skylight 1B £32.99
Hoya 62mm Pro CPol £79.99
Hoya 67mm Pro UV/Haze £34.99
Hoya 67mm Pro Skylight 1B £36.99
Hoya 67mm Pro CPol £89.99
Hoya 72mm Pro UV/Haze £37.99
Hoya 72mm Pro Skylight 1B £41.99
Hoya 72mm Pro CPol £114.99
Hoya 77mm Pro UV/Haze £39.99
Hoya 77mm Pro Skylight 1B £44.99
Hoya 77mm Pro CPol £134.99
Hoya 82mm Pro UV/Haze £44.99
Hoya 82mm Pro Skylight 1B £49.99
Hoya 82mm Pro CPol £179.99

Belkin USB/FW Hubs

4-Port Hub USB1 Special £9.99
7-Port Port Hub USB £29.99
Multi Port Hub USB £49.99
4-Port Hub Fire Wire £49.99

Chargers/Batteries

Hahnel

HL80 Battery (Fuji, Kodak) £29.99
HL-E1 Battery (Nikon) £24.99
HL-1L Battery (Canon) £19.99
HL-2L Battery (Canon) £19.99
HL-511 Battery (Canon) £34.99
HL-200 Battery (Minolta) £19.99
HL-400 Battery (Minolta) £39.99
HL-10B Battery (Olympus) £19.99
HL-30B Battery (Olympus) £19.99
Uniross XPress 150 Charger Kit ..£16.99
4 x 1800mAH Batteries £7.99
4 x 2000mAH Batteries £9.99
4 x 2500mAH Batteries £12.99
GP Powerbank Charger kit £24.99
Ansman PhotoCam 2 Charger Kit £19.99
Ansman Digi Speed 4 Charger Kit £39.99

Memory Storage

Photainer 30gig £249.99
Photainer 40gig £289.99
Photainer 80gig £359.99
Spare Battery £39.99
Car Adaptor £29.99
Innoplus i-With 40gig £289.99
Innoplus i-With 80gig £359.99
I-Tank 3 30gig £99.99
I-Tank 3 60gig £129.99
Spare Battery Image Tank 2 or 3 ..... £39.99
Flashtrax XT 40gig £268.99
Flashtrax XT 80gig £348.99
Spare Battery £49.99
Car Adaptor ..... ~~£32~~ £19
Apacer CP200 ..... £199.99
Apacer CP300 ..... £269.99
Car Adaptor £29.99
Spare Battery £39.99
Case £16.99
Jobo GIGA Vu Pro 40gig £379.99

Camera Cases

Lowepro Digital Camera Cases

DRes 50AW £27.99
D-Res 30AW £17.99
D-Res 25AW £15.99
D-Res 20AW £14.99
D-Res 10AW £12.99
D-Res 8 Pouch £12.99
D-Res 8S Pouch £10.99
D-Res 9 Pouch £12.99
D-Res 4M Pouch £11.99
D-Res TL10 ..... £21.99
D-Res TL20 ..... £26.99
Rezo 10 ..... £9.99
Rezo 15 ..... £10.99
Rezo 40 ..... £15.99
Rezo 110AW £19.99
Rezo 120AW £24.99
Rezo 140AW £29.99
Rezo 160AW £34.99
Nova 1 ..... £26.99
Nova 2 ..... £32.99
Nova 3 ..... £36.99
Mini Trekker AW £73.99
Computer Trekker AW £99.99
Computer Trekker AW Plus £169.99
Photo Trekker Classic £99.99
Orion Trekker II £49.99
Toploader 65AW £39.99
Toploader Zoom Mini £17.99
D-Res 6 Card/Batt Wallet £9.99
D-Res 4 Memory Wallet £7.99

Printer Consumables

Epson Paper

SO41054 A6 50 matt 144g £6.99
SO41061 A4 100 matt 102g £9.99
SO41068 A3 100 matt 105g £32.99
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Canon Multifunctions

Pixma MP 150	£69.00
Pixma MP 170	£99.00
Pixma MP 450	£149.00
Pixma MP 500	£194.00
Pixma MP 780	£259.00
Pixma MP 800	£279.00

For discounted inks, and great deals on paper, please phone or visit our website

Remote Switches

RS80N3 (20D/ 1D/ 1Ds/ Mk II)	£38.00*
TC80N3 (20D/ 1D/ 1Ds/ Mk II)	£88.00*
RS60E3 (350D)	£22.00*

Scanners

CanoScan 4200F	£79.00*
CanoScan 8400F	£149.00*
CanoScan 9950F	£269.00*

Please phone for the full range of scanners

Flashguns & Accessories

Speedlite 430EX	£179.99*
Speedlite 580EX	£294.99*
Speedlite 580EX + ST-E2	£409.99*
Speedlite 580EX + Fast Battery Mains/Car Charger + 4x NiMH Batts	£314.99*
Macrolite MT-14EX	£329.00*
Macrolite MT-24EX	£589.00*
Speedlite Transmitter ST-E2	£134.99*
Speedlite Bracket SB-E1	£114.99*
Compact Battery Pack CP-E3	£119.99*

Please see website or call for flash cords, macrolite adaptors and other accessories

Nikon D200 Body

lens sold separately Body SRP £1299.99

NEW!

- 10.2 Mega Pixels
- 5 frames per second
- Magnesium Alloy Body
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Instant power-up in just 0.15 seconds, with a shutter release time lag of a mere 50 milliseconds

Our Price £Phone

D200 + 12-24mm f/4 G DX	£Phone
D200 + 17-55mm f/2.8 G DX	£Phone
D200 + 18-70mm f/3.5-4.5 DX	£Phone

Nikon D2X

IN STOCK

- 12.4Mp CMOS
- 5 fps or 8fps with High Speed Cropped Mode
- 11-area Multi-CAM2000 AF

Body SRP £3499.99 Lens Sold Separately

D2X body	£2799.00
D2X + Capture 4.4	£2899.00

For your own personal quote for new system please phone or e-mail us

Nikon D70s

- 6.1 megapixel
- 0.2s start up time
- Long Battery Life

Our Price **£589.99***

lens sold separately Body SRP £699.99

D70s body	£589.99
D70s + 18-70mm	£749.00
D70s + 18-70mm + 1GB CF	£799.99

Add a Spare ENEL3 Battery at the same time for only £44.00*

Nikon D50

- 6 Mega Pixels
- 2.5 fps
- Extra large 2.0" LCD Screen

Our Price **£399.99***

lens sold separately Body SRP £449.99

NEW LOW PRICE

D50 + 18-55mm	£469.99
D50 + 18-55mm + 512MB SD	£499.99
D50 + 18-70mm + 512MB SD	£599.99

Please call to find out how you can save £400 on Nikon Accessories

Coolpix S1 Silver

- 5.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Ultra Slim Design

Our Price **£199.99**

SRP £249.99

Fuji 256MB SD + Nikon Leather Case **£238.99***

Coolpix S2

- 5.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Ultra Slim Design

Our Price **£209.99**

SRP £279.99

Fuji 256MB SD + Nikon Leather Case **£239.99***

Coolpix 7900 Silver

- 7.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Includes Lithium Ion Battery + Charger

Our Price **£229.00***

SRP £299.99

Fuji 256MB SD + Nikon Leather Case **£259.00***

Coolpix 7600 Silver

- 7.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- In Camera Red Eye Removal

Our Price **£219.99**

SRP £249.99

Fuji 256MB SD + Nikon Leather Case **£257.99***

Coolpix S4

- 6.0 million pixels
- 10 x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Slim, versatile swivelling body

Our Price **£269.99***

SRP £329.99

+ Fuji 256MB SD **£314.99***

Nikon Digital Cameras

Coolpix 7600 Silver	£209.99
Coolpix 7600 Black	£199.99
Coolpix 7900 Silver	£239.99
Coolpix P2	£229.99*
Coolpix S1 Pure Silver	£199.99
Coolpix S1 Ivory White	£214.99
Coolpix S2	£209.99
Coolpix S3 Champagne	£269.99
Coolpix S4	£269.99
D2Hs	£2059.00*
D2X IN STOCK!	£2799.00*

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EN-EL1 (4800, 8700)	£39.99
EN-EL2 (2500, 3500, SQ) (4 Only)	£29.99
EN-EL3 (D100, D70, D70s)	£46.99*
2 x EN-EL3 (D100, D70,D70s)	£90.00*
EN-EL3A (D70s)	£49.99
EN-EL4 (D2H, D2X)	£89.99
2x EN-EL4 (D2H, D2X)	£149.99*
EN-EL5 (4200, 5200, 7900)	£29.99
EN-EL6 (Coolwalker)	£59.99
EN-EL7 (8400, 8800)	£39.99
EN-EL7e with LED indicator	£49.99
EN-EL8 (S1, S2)	£29.99
EN-4 (D1X, D1H)	£89.99

Nikon Converters

Phone or see our website to get correct converter & adaptor for your camera

FC-E8 Fisheye converter	£219.99
FC-E9 Fisheye converter (3)	£179.99*
WC-E68 0.68x Wide	£139.99
WC-E75 0.75 Wide (for 8400)	£179.99
WC-E80 0.8x Wide (5700, 8700)	£139.99
WM-E80 0.8 Wide (8400, 8800	£69.99
TC-E15ED 1.5X (5400, 5700)	£139.99
TC-E17ED Teleconverter	£269.99
TC-E2 2X tele (10 Only)	£79.99
TC-E3ED 3X tele (8400)	£199.99
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FF-CP10 CPL Filter (for 8400)	£45.99
FF-CP10 ND4 Filter (for 8400)	£19.99
FF-CP11 NC Filter (for 8800)	£19.99
FF-CP11 CPL Filter (for 8800)	£45.99
FF-CP11 ND4 Filter (for 8800)	£19.99

Battery Grips

MB-D100 Grip for D100	£89.99*
MB-E5700 for 5700/8700	£124.99
MB-CP10 for 8400	£124.99
MB-CP11 for 8800	£124.99

We stock a wide variety of other accessories- please phone/ see web

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MH16 Quick Charger (D1X)	£189.99*
MH17 Quick Charger (for EN-4)	£139.99*
MH18 (for EN-EL3)	£34.99
MH19 Multi Charger	£189.99*
MH-53 (for 8700)	£24.99
MH-53c Car Charger (for 8700)	£49.99
MH-56 (for 8400, 8800)	£69.99*
MH-61 (for EN-EL5 battery)	£19.99
MH-70 (for 2100, 3100)	£19.99

Mains Adapters

EH-4 (for D1X/ D1H)	£74.99
EH-5 (for D100)	£74.99
EH-6 (for D2H)	£74.99
EH-21 (for 775, 4500, 5000, 5700)	£59.99
EH-31	£52.99
EH-53 (for 4500, 5700, 8700)	£39.99
EH-60 (for 2500, 3500)	£39.99
EH-61 (for 2100, 3100)	£19.99
EH-62A (for 4200, 5200)	£29.99
EH-62B (for 2200, 3200)	£29.99
EH-63 (for S1)	£Phone

Other Accessories

Capture 4.3 Software (21 Only)	£89.99*
30GB Coolwalker	£299.99*
WT1 Wireless Transmitter	£349.99
WT-2 Wireless Transmitter	£549.99

Remotes

MC-EU1 Remote Cord (8700)	£89.99*
MC-30 Remote Cord (for D2X)	£55.99
ML-L3 Remote (for D70, D70s)	£14.99

Lens Hoods and Caps

HR-E5700 Lens Hood (for 5700)	£19.99
HN-CP10 Lens Hood (for 5400)	£19.99
HN-CP11 Lens Hood (for 8700)	£19.99
HN-CP12 Lens Hood (for 8400)	£24.99
HN-CP14 Lens Hood (for 8800)	£24.99
LC-CP10 Lens Cap (for 5700)	£6.99

For SLR Lens Hoods please phone or see www.parkcameras.co.uk

Nikon Flashguns

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Speedlight SB600	£199.99*
SB 27 Speedlight	£199.99*
SB R200 Speedlight	£169.99
SB R1 Close-Up Remote Kit	£359.99
SB R1C1 Commander Kit	£499.99
SL1 Macro Cool-Light	£59.99*
SC18 TTL Multi Flash Sync	£42.50*
SC19 TTL Multi Flash Sync	£47.50*
SC28 TTL Remote Cord/SB800	£47.50*
AS15 Hot Shoe Adaptor	£18.99

Nikon Lenses

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AF-D 14mm f/2.8 ED	£999.00
AF-D 20mm f/2.8	£499.00
AF-D 24mm f/2.8	£356.00
AF-D 28mm f/2.8	£199.00
AF-D 50mm f/1.4	£219.99
AF-D 50mm f/1.8	£99.99
AF-D 60mm f/2.8 Micro	£359.00
AF-D 85mm f/1.8	£339.00
AF-D 85mm f/1.4	£799.99
AF-D 105mm f/2.8D Micro	£649.99
AF-D 180mm f/2.8 IF ED	£599.00
AF-S 200mm f/2 IF-ED VR	£2649.00
AF-S 300mm f/2.8G IF-ED VR	£3199.00
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AF-S 17-55mm f/2.8G IF-ED DX	£949.00
AF-D 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5	£399.00
AF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 DX	£99.99
AF-S 18-70mm f/3.5-4.5 DX	£189.00
AF-S 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 ED-IF VR	£499.00
AF-S 24-85mm f/2.8-4 IF	£435.00
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AF-D 28-105mm f/3.5-4.5 IF	£309.99
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AF-G 28-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IF Black	£250.00
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AF-S 55-200mm f/4-5.6 DX Black	£159.99
AF-S 55-200mm f/4-5.6 DX Silver	£169.99
AF-D 70-180mm f/4.5-5.6 ED Micro	£850.00
AF-D 70-300mm f/4-5.6 ED	£279.99
AF-G 70-300mm f4-5.6 Black	£139.00
AF-S 70-200mm f/2.8G IF ED VR	£1,199.00
AF-D 80-400mm F4.5-5.6 VR	£1,079.00
AF-S 200-400mm f/4G IF-ED VR	£4,299.00

Nikon Scanners

Coolscan V	£428.00*
Coolscan 5000 ED	£699.00*
Coolscan 9000	£2099.00*

Scanner Accessories

SF-210 Slide Feeder	£499.99
SA30 Roll Film Adaptor	£669.99*
FH G1 Medical Slide Holder	£219.99
IA20 IX240 APS Adaptor	£159.99
FH-869G 120/220 strip film holder glass for 9000ED	£299.99

Nikon Cases

Leather Case for 5000/5400/8400	£24.99*
Leather Case for 5700/8700/8800	£29.99
Leather Case for 4200/5200/7900	£17.99*
Leather Case for 4800	£18.99*
Leather Case for S1/S2	£19.99*
CF-D70 Soft Case for D70/D70s	£34.99

Underwater Housings

WP-CP2 (for 4200/ 5200)	£159.99*
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WP-CP4 (for 5900/ 7900)	£139.99*
WP-CP5 (for S1)	£139.99*

LCD Hoods/ Monitor Covers

HL-E5000 LCD Hood (for 5000)	£19.99
BM1 LCD Monitor Cover (D1X)	£5.99
BM2 LCD Monitor Cover (D100)	£4.99
BM3 LCD Monitor Cover (D2H)	£6.99
BM4 LCD Monitor Cover (D70)	£4.99
BM5 LCD Monitor Cover (D70s)	£6.99

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SC-D1 IEEE 1394	£37.99
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See prices in red for low bundle prices with Sigma Multi Coated UV Filter

	Lens Price	Price With Filter
Sigma AF 8mm f4 EX DG Circular Fisheye New	£499.99	-
Sigma AF 14mm f2.8 Aspherical EX	£539.99	-
Sigma AF 15mm f2.8 Diagonal Fisheye DG New	£389.99	-
Sigma AF 20mm f1.8 Aspherical EX DG	£294.99	£347.99
Sigma 24mm f1.8 EX DG	£216.99	£266.98
Sigma 28mm f1.8 EX DG	£173.99	£223.98
Sigma AF 30mm f/1.4 EX DC HSM	£299.99	£319.99
Sigma AF 50mm f2.8 EX DG Macro	£194.99	£210.99
Sigma AF 105mm f2.8 EX DG Macro New	£289.99	£306.99
Sigma AF 150mm f2.8 EX DG HSM Macro	£439.99	£470.99
Sigma 180mm f3.5 EX Macro DG	£464.99	£499.98
Sigma 300mm f2.8 APO EX DG HSM New	£2594.99	-
Sigma 500mm f4.5 APO EX DG HSM New	£3794.99	-
Sigma 800mm f5.6 APO EX DG HSM New	£3794.99	-
Sigma AF 10-20mm f/4-5.6 EX DC HSM	£324.99	£368.99
Sigma AF 12-24mm f4.5-5.6 DG EX Aspherical HSM	£444.99	-
Sigma AF 15-30mm f3.5-4.5 DG EX	£299.99	-
Sigma AF 17-35mm f2.8-4 EX DG Aspherical	£309.99	£353.99
Sigma AF 17-70mm f2.8-4.5 DC Macro New	£Phone	£Phone
Sigma AF 18-50mm f/2.8 EX DC	£319.99	£345.99
Sigma AF 18-50mm f3.5-5.6 DC	£82.00	£99.00
Sigma AF 18-50mm f3.5-5.6 DC + Sigma AF 55-200mm f/4-5.6 DC (for Digital SLRs except EOS 1D, 1Ds)	£179.99	£212.99
Sigma AF 18-125mm f3.5-5.6 DC SLD	£194.99	£214.99
Sigma AF 18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 DC	£254.99*	£274.99
Sigma AF 20-40mm F2.8 EX DG Ashpherical	£262.99	£315.99
Sigma AF 24-60mm F2.8 DG EX	£286.99	£330.99
Sigma 24-70mm f3.5-5.6 HF	£89.99	£112.98
Sigma AF 24-70mm f2.8 Aspherical EX DG Macro	£294.99	£349.99
Sigma AF 24-135mm f2.8-4.5 Aspherical IF	£239.99	£283.99
Sigma 28-70mm f2.8 EX DG	£229.99	£259.98
Sigma AF 28-70mm f2.8-4 Aspherical DG	£69.90*	£86.99
Sigma 28-105mm f2.8-4	£152.99	£187.98
Sigma 28-105mm f2.8-4 DG New	£169.99	£192.98
Sigma 28-105mm 3.8-5.6 UCIII IF	£99.99	£122.98
Sigma AF 28-135mm f3.8-5.6 IF Aspherical Macro	£104.99	£124.99
Sigma AF 28-200mm f3.5-5.6 IF Aspherical DG Macro	£179.99	£199.99
Sigma AF 28-300mm f3.5-6.3 DG Macro	£189.99	£209.99
Sigma AF 50-500mm f4-6.3 APO EX DG HSM New	£719.99	£781.99
Sigma AF 55-200mm f/4-5.6 DC	£107.99	£123.99
Sigma AF 70-200mm f2.8 APO EX DG HSM New	£599.99	£643.99
Sigma AF 70-300mm f4-5.6 DG Macro	£109.99	£126.99
Sigma AF 70-300mm f4-5.6 APO DG Macro Super	£159.99	£176.99
Sigma AF 80-400mm f4.5-5.6 EX DG APO OS New	£839.99	£883.99
Sigma 100-300mm f4 EX IF DG APO New	£899.99	£959.98
Sigma 120-300mm f2.8 EX APO DG HSM New	£1679.99	£1799.98
Sigma 135-400mm f4.5-5.6 APO DG New	£499.90	£549.89
Sigma 170-500mm f5-6.3 APO DG New	£549.99	£619.98
Sigma 300-800mm f5.6 EX DG APO HSM New	£4498.99	-

SIGMA SD10

- 10.2 million pixels
- Foveon X3(R) direct image sensor uses three silicon-embedded layers of pixel sensors, stacked to take advantage of silicons ability to absorb red, green, and blue light at different respective depths

2x APO EX DG teleconverter £179.99 -

was £1099.99
Lens Sold Separately

SD10 Body	£524.99
SD10 +18-50mm	£539.99
Sigma SD10 + 18-50mm + 55-200mm DC Lenses	£654.98

See web for low lens prices

SONY DSC R1

- 10.3 Megapixels
- 5 x Optical Zoom
- Free-Angle 2.0" LCD Monitor

SRP £699.99 **Our Price £559.00***

DSC R1 + NP FM50 spare batt. **£599.00***

Sony DSC W7

- 7.2 million pixels
- 2.5" LCD screen
- 3 x optical zoom
- Carl Zeiss® Vario-Tessar® Lens

SRP £299.99 **Our Price £199.99***

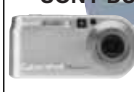
DSCW7 + Sony 256MB Pro + DPP FP30 Printer **£269.98***

Other Sony Cameras

DSC S40	£99.99
DSC S600	£149.99
DSC S90 (3 only)	£149.99
DSC P200S Silver	£229.99
DSC W5	£149.99
DSC W15	£179.99
DSC W7	£199.99*
DSC W17	£239.99*
DSC T5 Silver	£214.99
DSC T7 Silver	£269.99
DSC T9 Silver	£289.00
DSC N1	£319.99
DSC M2	£329.99
DSC H1	£299.99
Sony DSC R1	£562.99

PRINTER OFFER - please call or see website for bundle price of Sony's fantastic DPP FP30 Printer!

SONY DSC P200



- 7.2 Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- 2.0" Hybrid LCD

Camera Only £229.99*

+ Sony 256MB Pro + Sony LCS PHC Case **£279.99***

+ Sony 512MB Pro + Sony LCS PHC Case **£299.99***

SONY DSC N1

- 8.1 Megapixels
- 3 x Optical Zoom
- 3.0" Touch Screen LCD Monitor

SRP £379.99

NEW & in stock! **Our Price £319.99***

DSC N1 + 256MB M/StickDuo **£346.99***

Sony DSC T7

- 5.1 million pixels
- 2.5" LCD screen
- 3 x optical zoom
- ultra-slim design 9.8mm

SRP £349.99 **Our Price £269.99***

DSC T7 + 256MB Duo Pro Memory Stick **£296.99***

FUJIFILM FinePix S20 Pro

- Fourth Generation Super CCD with 3.1 million S-Pixels + 3.1 million R-Pixels, delivering 6.03 million recorded pixels
- 6x optical zoom lens (equivalent to 35 - 210mm)
- Full manual control
- External flash option via PC sync socket or hot-shoe
- USB 2.0 and Firewire (IEEE 1394) connections

SRP £349.99 **Our Price £199.99***

HYPER UTILITY HS-V2 SOFTWARE: WAS £149.99 NEW PRICE £19.99!!

FUJIFILM FinePix F10

- 6.3 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Superb Low Light mode (1600 ISO)

SRP £299.99 **Our Price £193.00**

F10 + 256MB xD + leather case **£233.00**

Casio Exilim S500

- 5.0 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- MPEG4

SRP £299.99 **Our Price £193.99***

Other Casio Cameras

Exilim EX Z500 Silver	£169.99*
Exilim EX S600 Silver/Mistral Blue/Latin Orange New	£234.99

New range of Casio Digital Cameras. Please phone/see web for more info.

Kodak Digital Cameras

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C310 + Printer Dock	£94.99
C330	£99.99
C330 + Printer Dock	£149.98*
C360 (11 Only)	£99.99*
C360 + Printer Dock	£149.99*
Z7590	£219.99
Z740 + Printer Dock	£189.99
V550 + Docking station	£184.99*
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SP AF 180mm f/3.5 Di Macro 1:1	£549.99
SP AF 11-18mm f/4.5-5.6 Di-II LD	£399.00
SP AF 17-35mm f/2.8-4 Di LD	£329.99*
AF 18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 XR Macro	£299.00
AF 19-35mm f/3.5-4.5	£179.99
SP AF 28-75mm f/2.8 XR Di	£269.99
SP AF 28-300mm f/3.5-6.3 XR Di	£219.99*
SP AF 200-500mm f/5-6.3 Di LD	£699.99

Phone for other Tamron & deals with filter

FinePix S5600

- 5.1 million pixels
- 10x optical zoom
- Pop up Flash

SRP £299.99 **Our Price £219.99**

S5600 + 4 AA Batts + Fast Charger + 512MB CF **£Phone!**

FinePix S9500

- 9.0 million pixels
- 28-300mm (equiv) 10.7x optical zoom
- Tilting LCD

SRP £549.99 **Our Price £384.99**

S9500 + 4 AA Batts + Fast Charger + 512MB CF **£Phone!**

Other Fuji Cameras

Finepix E500 Kit	£159.99
Finepix Z1 Silver & Black + 2x 64mb xD Cards + Case	£209.99
Finepix V10 Zoom + 256mb XD Card + Fuji leather case	£259.99
Finepix F11	£259.99
Fuji Finepix S9500 Zoom	£384.99
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- 5760 x 1440 dpi
- 8 individual cartridges, including matte black ink and a unique gloss optimizer, for professional results every time - no matter what the paper type.

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- Process your photos in the convenience of your home
- Easily view, select and print from 1.5" colour LCD screen

SRP £99.00 **Our Price £79.00***

+ Epson Picture Pack + USB Cable **£86.00***

Pentax * ist DL

- 6.1 Million Pixels
- 2.5" LCD
- compact design

Body SRP £549.99 **Our Price £474.99**

*ist DL + 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	£549.99
*ist DL + 16-45mm f/4 ED	£Phone
*ist DL + Sigma 24-70 f/2.8 EX	£559.98

Available in Black. Silver Available whilst stock lasts. Please phone/ e-mail for your personal quote on bundles!

Pentax Optio Wpi

- 6 Million pixels
- 3x Optical zoom
- Can go 5 feet underwater for up to 30 minutes

SRP 269.99 **Sale Price £199.99**

+ Sansdisk 256MB SD Card **£217.99**

Other Pentax Cameras

Optio S60	£159.99*
Optio E10	£159.99
Optio S6	£209.99*

New range of Pentax Digital Cameras. Please phone/see web for more info.

Pentax Lenses

40mm f2.8 DA SMC	£219.00
10-17mm F3.5-4.5 ED (IF)	£339.99
12-24mm F4.0 ED/AL IF	£569.99
16-45mm f/4 ED AL DA	£299.99
18-55mm f3.5-5.6 DA AL SMC	£90.00
24-90mm f/3.5-4.5 FA AL [IF]	£319.00
28-80mm f/3.5-5.6 FAJ SMC	£69.99
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- Superb 3.8" TFT screen
- CF/ SD Slots (others by adaptor)

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Epson Picturemate 500

- Process your photos in the convenience of your home
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Stylus Pro 4000	£1759.99
Perfection 3490 Photo	£79.00
Perfection 3590 Photo	£99.00
Perfection 4490 Photo	£199.00
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HP Digital Cameras

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Photosmart M417	£119.99
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Photosmart M517	£129.99
Photosmart R717	£149.99
Photosmart R817	£209.99
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- Thermal Inkjet
- Memory card slots
- Large 2.5" LCD
- Bluetooth

Our Price £99.99
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Photosmart 385	£89.99
Photosmart 475	£179.99
Photosmart 7960	£109.99
Photosmart 8150	£119.99
Photosmart 8250	£134.99
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HP Scanners

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SRP £619.99 **NEW & In Stock** **£499.99**

- 8.0 million pixels
- Dual slot for CF and xD Cards
- 2.5" LCD Screen

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For more money saving bundles, please phone or see our website

Olympus Lenses

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ED 150mm f/2.0	£1899.00
ED 300mm f/2.8	£4399.99
7-14mm f/4.0	£1149.00*
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14-45mm f/3.5-5.6	£159.99
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40-150mm f/3.5-4.5 STAR BUY	£139.99
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Available in Canon and Nikon fit

Lensbaby Original f2.8	£69.99
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Available in Canon, Nikon, Pentax and Olympus fitting.

RICOH

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Caplio R30 + case	£234.99
Caplio GX8	£279.99
Caplio 400G	£329.99
Caplio GR NEW	£Phone

Please see website for memory card deals

Mju Digital 800

- See in the dark with the Mju 800!
- 8.0 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom

Available in Silver or Dark Blue **Our Price £279.00***

+ 256MB xD Card + Olympus leather case **£324.00***

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- 6.0 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- Fantastic performance in low light conditions

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+ 256MB xD Card + Olympus leather case **£209.99***

Olympus Digital Cameras

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FE130 New	£Phone
FE140 New	£Phone
MJU 700 / MJU 810 New	£Phone
MJU 720SW New	£Phone
SP 320 New	£Phone
MJU Mini Digital S	£159.99
FE 5500	£159.99
SP-350 New	£249.99
SP-500 Ultra Zoom New	£219.99

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- MV 890
- MV 930
- DC40
- MVX 460
- MV 901
- MV 960

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SRP TBC

- 5.0 million pixels
- 2.8x optical zoom
- Compact and easy to use
- 28MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

OLYMPUS FE-130

SRP TBC

- 5.0 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- 20 scene modes
- Compact and easy to use
- 22MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

OLYMPUS FE-140

SRP TBC

- 6.0 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- 20 scene modes
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 22MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

OLYMPUS FE-150

SRP TBC

- 5.0 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Metal Body
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 9MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

OLYMPUS MJU Digital 700

SRP TBC

- 7.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Weather resistant metal body
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Available in Moonlight Silver, Twilight Blue or Sunset Orange

Our Price £Phone

OLYMPUS MJU Digital 720 SW

SRP TBC

- 7.1 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- Waterproof up to a water pressure equiv. to 3m depth
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Available in Steel Silver, Polar Blue or Dusky Pink

Our Price £Phone

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SRP TBC

The Olympus E-330 is the world's first* digital SLR camera to feature continuous live views directly on the LCD. Enabling the framing of compositions without the need to look through the viewfinder, it allows digital SLR photographers to see what's going on around them while they shoot, significantly enhancing flexibility

- *7.5 Million live MOS Sensor
- SuperSonic Wave Filter for dust reduction
- Dual Slot for CF and xD-Picture Cards
- Built in flash

Our Price £Phone

FUJIFILM Finepix A400

SRP TBC

- 4.1 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- Compact and easy to use
- 12MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

FUJIFILM Finepix V10

SRP TBC

- 5.1 million pixels
- 3.4x optical zoom
- 3.0" LCD screen
- Ultra-quick response times

Our Price £Phone

NEW DIGITAL CAMERAS FROM HP

Photosmart E327	£Phone
Photosmart M425	£Phone
Photosmart M525	£Phone
Photosmart M527	£Phone
Photosmart R725	£Phone

Easyshare V570

SRP TBC

- 5.0 million pixels
- Ultra wide-angle and 5X optical zoom range
- On-camera panorama stitch mode

Our Price £Phone

Other New Digital Cameras from Kodak

- Easyshare C663
- Easyshare z650

PENTAX Optio E10

SRP TBC

- 6.0 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- 2.4" LCD Screen
- 10MB internal Memory
- Compact and easy to use

Our Price £Phone

NEW DIGITAL CAMCORDERS FROM SONY

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DCR HC44E	£Phone
DCR HC46E	£Phone
DCR HC94E	£Phone
DCR HC96E	£Phone
DCR DVD105E	£Phone
DCR DVD205E	£Phone
DCR DVD404E	£Phone
DCR DVD405E	£Phone
DCR DVD505E	£Phone

FUJIFILM Finepix A500

SRP TBC

- 5.1 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- Compact and easy to use
- 12MB internal memory

Our Price £Phone

FUJIFILM Finepix F470

SRP TBC

- 6.0 million pixels
- 3x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Compact, slimline design (only19.7mm thick)

Our Price £Phone

CASIO Exilim EX S600

SRP TBC

- 6.0 Megapixels
- High quality MPEG4 movies
- 3x optical zoom
- 2.2 inch LCD screen
- Available in Sparkle Silver, Mistral Blue, and Latin Orange

Our Price £Phone

Also New from Casio
Casio Exilim EX Z600 Silver £Phone

Phone for details on new Nikon Coolpix Digital Cameras and Lenses

PENTAX Optio A10

SRP TBC

- 8.0 million pixels
- 3 x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Shake Reduction system
- Trendy, ultra compact aluminum alloy body

Our Price £Phone

Sony DCR SR90 Hard Disk Drive Camcorder

SRP TBC

- Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* Lens
- 30GB HDD
- MPEG 2 Recording
- 3 Megapixel CCD
- 10x Optical Zoom/ 120x Digital
- Wide Hybrid LCD with Touch Panels

Our Price £Phone

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CANON		
Digital IXUS 700 (1)	£399.00	£264.99
ACK 500 AC Adaptor (2)	£45.00	£25.00
DCC-30 Soft Leather Case for Ixus i (11)	£25.00	£5.00
AW-DC10 All Weather Case (Digital Ixus)	£89.00	£39.00
SC PS300 Soft Case (IXUS 500)(4)	£18.00	£10.00
SC PS600 Soft Case (A60/A70/ A75/ A80)	£18.00	£10.00
SC PS700 Soft Case (for G2) (1)	£30.00	£10.00
SC-DC40 Soft Case for G6	£18.00	£5.00
DCC-40 Soft Case (for A95)	£15.00	£5.00
DCC-80 Soft Case for A510/ A520 (46)	£19.99	£10.00
DCC-90 Soft Case for S2 IS	£19.99	£10.00
DCC-200 Soft Case for IXUS I ZOOM	£19.99	£10.00
WP DC400 Waterproof Case A100/ A200	£149.00	£79.00
WP DC500 Waterproof Case (IXUS 330)	£149.00	£49.99
WP DC800 Waterproof Case (Digital IXUS 400, 430, 500)(1)	£149.00	£109.00
TC DC58A 1.5x Tele Conversion Lens (for Pro 1) (31)	£199.00	£59.99
WC-DC52A Wide Converter (for S1) (1)	£99.00	£49.99
WC DC58N Wide Converter (for G3, G5, G6)(6)	£109.00	£84.99
LA DC58C Conversion Lens Adaptor (for Pro 1)	£55.00	£45.00
LAH-DC10 Lens Adapter/Hood Set (for S1 IS) (8)	£25.00	£10.00
CP 330 Compact Photo Printer (1)	£199.00	£94.99
Selphy CP500 Direct Printer (29)	£149.00	£69.99
Selphy CP600 Direct Printer (20)	£199.00	£119.99
Selphy DS700 Direct Printer (25)	£199.00	£69.99
Canoscan F1210U (1 demo)	£292.57	£39.99
EF-S 17-85mm f/4.0-5.6 IS USM	£529.99	£419.00
EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (unboxed)	£149.99	£50.00
Sureshot 105U Kit	£89.99	£74.99
Sureshot 80U Kit	£69.99	£59.99
Battery Magazine BM-1 (2)	£27.49	£13.74
NP-E2 Ni Mh Battery Pack (2)	£99.99	£79.99
ES 65III Lens Hood for TSE 90mm f2.8 (1)	£17.99	£8.99
EW-68A Lens Hood for EF 28-80mm f3.5-5.6 USM (1)	£22.99	£12.99
EW 75BII Lens Hood for TSE 24mm f2.5L	£17.99	£9.99
58mm Softmat No 2 Screw In (1)	£64.99	£44.99
Black Soft Video Case (2)	£19.99	£9.99
Black Soft Camcorder Case (2)	£19.99	£12.99
Black SLR Gadget Bag (1)	£19.99	£9.50

Description	was	Sale Price
EF Lenswork III-The Eyes of EOS	£19.99	£9.99
World Cup '98 CD (2)	£6.99	£4.99
MV800 (3)	£329.99	£209.99
MVX300 (3)	£499.99	£299.99
MVX4i (3)	£999.99	£719.99
DC-10	£599.99	£399.99
DC-20	£699.99	£499.99
MV700 (1)	£399.99	£199.99
BPE 22 Battery Pack (1)	£59.99	£29.99
TL43 Tele Converter (1)	£134.03	£99.99
8x23WP (1)	£119.99	£79.99
FUJIFILM		
FinePix S5500 (1)	£229.99	£189.99
FinePix F10	£299.99	£194.99
FinePix S20 Pro (Camera Only)	£349.99	£219.99
FinePix S20 Pro (incl HS-V2 Software)	£349.99	£239.98
Fuji 64mb xD Picture Card	£29.99	£8.00
USB XD MP3 Reader & MP3 Player (1)	£39.99	£14.99
DM-R1 Firewire (IEEE 1394) Compact Flash and SmartMedia Reader (1)	£69.99	£19.99
DPC-R1 xD/SM USB Card Reader	£45.99	£24.99
Cameramate USB CF & SM Reader (2)	£67.99	£5.00
NP 100 Rechargeable Battery (MX700, MX600, DX9)(5)	£39.99	£19.99
NP-120 Rechargeable Battery (F10/ F11/ M603)	£49.99	£26.99
BC-NH Overnight Charger + 2x 1600mAh NiMH Batteries (2)	£19.99	£10.00
Soft Case Finepix A203/A303/A310/ A330/ A340 (7)	£14.99	£6.99
Soft Case for FinePix A330/ A340 Zoom	£14.99	£5.00
SC-FX304 Soft Case (S304/ S3000/ S3500)	£19.99	£9.99
Soft Case for Finepix F700/ F710/ F810(4)	£14.99	£10.00
Soft Case for Finepix A345	£14.99	£7.99
Soft Case for FinePix F10/F11	£14.99	£7.50
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FP100C SILK 02/05	£15.60	£3.00
KODAK		
Kodak DX6440 (1)	£229.99	£129.99
Kodak C300 and Printer Dock (3)	£193.99	£99.99
Kodak Easyshare C310 and Printer Dock	£149.99	£119.99
Kodak CX 7530 + Printer Dock(1)	£249.99	£149.99
Kodak Z740 and Printer Dock	£269.99	£209.99

Description	was	Sale Price
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Coolpix S2	£279.99	£209.99
Coolpix 7600 Silver	£249.99	£189.99
Coolpix 7900 Silver	£299.99	£225.00
EN-EL2 Battery for 2500, 3500, SQ(4)	£39.99	£29.99
SK-6A Power Bracket (2)	£249.99	£189.99
CF-D100 Semi Soft Case for D100 (1)	£44.99	£34.99
Leather Case (Coolpix 5000/5400/ 8400)	£29.99	£10.00
Leather Case (Coolpix 5700/ 8700/ 8800)	£29.99	£14.99
Nikon Silver Compact Flash Card Case	£14.99	£3.99
FC-E9 Fisheye Converter (3)	£249.99	£179.99
TC-E2 Teleconverter Lens(1)	£105.99	£79.99
SC-D1 IEEE 1394 Cable(2)	£37.99	£24.99
SK-E900 Flash Bracket (2)	£64.99	£29.99
MB-D100 Battery Pack for D100(9)	£249.99	£99.99
Nikon Capture 4.3(2)	£119.99	£89.99
COOLWALKER MSV-01 (30GB) (3)	£399.99	£289.99
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F75 Body + 28-100 Silver Kit (2)	£299.99	£199.99
AF-S 300mm f/2.8G IF-ED VR (2)	£3,999.99	£3,199.00
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AF-S 17-55mm f/2.8G IF-ED DX	£1,199.99	£949.00
AF-S ED 24-85mm F3.5-4.5 G	£399.99	£199.99
AF-G 28-200mm f3.5-f5.6 IF-ED Silver(14)	£299.99	£169.00
AF-S 55-200mm f/4-5.6G DX Black	£199.99	£149.99
HN-32 Screw in Lens Hood(3)	£8.99	£5.99
MB-18 Battery Pack (for F75) (4)	£69.99	£39.99
MB-40 Multi Power Battery Pack (for F6)	£349.99	£289.99
CL-72 Lens Case fits 70-300mm f4-5.6 /G	£27.99	£17.99
ML-L1 Remote Conrol for Nuvis/75(1)	£9.99	£6.99
8x25 WP/RA II(1)	£209.99	£169.99
OLYMPUS		
Camedia C-765 (3)	£249.99	£189.99
Camedia C-60 (3)	£279.99	£169.99
FE 5500 (2)	£229.99	£179.99
IR 300 (1)	£279.99	£149.99
MJU 300 Digital Refurbished	£229.99	£99.99
MJU Digital 500 (2)	£279.99	£159.99
E-300 + ZD 14-45mm f/3.5-5.6	£699.99	£399.99
MAUSB-5W Card Reader/Writer (1)	£49.99	£9.99
LI-30B Battery (for MJU mini)	£39.99	£24.99
Hahnel Li M1 Lithium Ion Battery Pack for E-1, E-300, C-5060 (1500mAh) (6)	£45.00	£29.99

Description	was	Sale Price
B-HLD20 Power Battery Holder (C-5060)	£79.99	£49.99
C-6AG AC Adapter for	£49.99	£14.99
PVC Case for C120/C300/C350 (6)	£19.99	£6.99
Leather Case for 310/370/470 (27)	£24.99	£5.00
Leather Case for SP310 and SP350	£29.99	£14.99
Leather Case for C-1000, C-1400 Series	£29.99	£6.99
Leather Case for C-70/ MJU 500	£19.99	£9.99
MJU Neck Strap	£14.99	£4.99
PT-023 Underwater Case C-8080(1)	£224.99	£189.99
PFL-01 Underwater/Case for FL20 (1)	£199.99	£149.99
TCON 14 1.4x tele converter	£79.99	£39.99
TCON-17C Tele Conv.Lens (C-5060WZ)	£109.99	£59.99
CLA-5 Conversion Lens Adaptor Set	£19.99	£14.99
FL-50 TTL Flash for E-1/ E-300 (2)	£349.99	£259.99
FL-CB01, Cable for 5 pin extension flash connector (2)	£49.99	£39.99
FS-FC1 Macro Flash Controller (1)	£283.18	£249.99
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RC-300C Remote Control	£15.99	£5.99
RC-30 Remote Control(4)	£19.99	£4.99
PENTAX		
Optio S55 (1)	£199.99	£149.99
Battery Charger Stand EI-D BCI	£12.99	£9.99
Soft Case O-OCC10 for *ist D(2)	£49.99	£44.99
MZ 60 QD Body (1)	£130.00	£79.99
Efina T Kit (5)	£219.99	£39.99
Battery Grip D-BG1 for * ist D (1)	£169.99	£99.99
Off Camera Shoe Clip CL-10 (2)	£39.99	£19.99
Soft Case EM-Espio 140/160 (2)	£13.49	£6.99
AF 140C Ringflash with Case(2)	£419.99	£349.99
6.5x21 Papilio	£99.99	£79.99
8.5x21 Papilio	£109.99	£89.99
8x36 DCF HS	£229.99	£159.99
10x36 DCF HS (2)	£249.99	£199.99
SONY		
DSC S40	£149.99	£105.99
DSC L1 Silver (1)	£229.99	£149.99
DSC P150 Silver (1 ex demo)	£399.99	£149.99
DSC T5S Silver	£279.99	£214.99
DSC W5S	£229.99	£179.99
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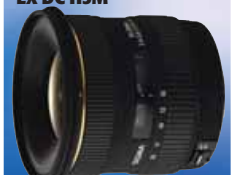
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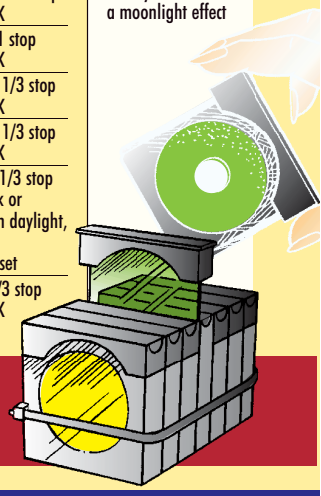

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512MB Sony Duo	£37.90
1GB Sony Duo	£49.90
256MB Sandisk	£21.90
512MB Sandisk	£31.90
1GB Sandisk	£44.90

xD Card
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256MB TWIN PACK	£39.90
512MB	£34.90
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BATTERIES / CHARGERS

Lithium Ion
Canon

Canon NB-1LH	£26.90
MPower NB-1LH	£9.90
Canon NB-2LH	£39.90
MPower NB-2LH	£14.90
Powerstorm NB-3L	£14.90
Canon NB-4L	£26.90
Powerstorm NB-4L	£14.90
Canon BP-511	£49.90
MPower BP-511	£17.90

Lithium Ion
Fuji

MPower NP40	£14.90
MPower NP60	£14.90
MPower NP120	£17.90

Konica Minolta

Hahnel NP500/600	£17.90
Minolta NP400	£49.90
MPower NP400	£19.90
MPower NP800	£14.90

Lithium Ion
Nikon

MPower EN-EL1	£14.90
Nikon EN-EL3	£39.90
MPower EN-EL3	£19.90
Nikon EN-EL5	£26.90
Powerstorm EN-EL5	£14.90
Nikon EN-EL7	£36.90
Hahnel EN-EL7	£19.90
Nikon EN-EL8	£27.90
Powerstorm EL8	£14.90

Lithium Ion
Olympus

Olympus Li12B	£24.90
Hahnel Li12B	£14.90
MPower Li10B	£9.90
Olympus Li30B	£19.90
Olympus BLM-1	£49.90
Hahnel BLM-1	£19.90

Panasonic

CGA-S002E	£44.90
MPower S002E	£19.90

Lithium Ion
Panasonic

CGA-S005E	£34.90
MPowers S005E	£14.90
CGA-S006E	£39.90
MPower S006E	£19.90

Sony

Sony NP-FR1	£39.90
Hahnel NP-FR1	£24.90
Sony NP-FT1	£39.90
Unomat NP-FT1	£24.90

Sony

Sony NP-FE1	£39.90
Powerstorm FE1	£24.90

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Hahnel Ultra Fast Charger with 4 x 2350mah Batts £27.90

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2GB PRO DUO	75.90

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SanDisk

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256MB	14.00
512MB	21.90
1GB	34.90
2GB	54.90
4GB	106.90

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512MB 60x	25.40
1GB 60x	41.90
2GB 60x	66.90
4GB 60x	129.90

Extreme III CF
1GB 120x	47.90
2GB 120x	74.90
4GB 120x	149.90

Transflash/MicroSD
128MB	12.90
256MB	14.50
512MB	21.90

Mini SD
256MB	14.50
512MB	21.90
1GB	34.90
2GB	54.20

LEXAR

Compactflash
1GB 133x	46.90
2GB 133x	76.90
4GB 133x	148.90

Memory Stick
512MB PRO DUO	24.90
1GB PRO DUO	34.90

Secure Digital Card
128MB	9.90
256MB	13.60
512MB	18.90
1GB	31.90
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2GB 133x	79.90

Card Readers
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SONY

Sony Memory Stick
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Kingston

Compact Flash
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512MB	15.99
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512MB Elite 50x	22.50
1GB Elite 50x	34.90
2GB Elite 50x	54.90
4GB Elite 50x	124.90
Ultimate 1GB 100x	44.90
Ultimate 2GB 100x	73.90
Ultimate 4GB 100x	148.90

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256MB	10.90
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Ultimate 512MB 133x	26.10
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FUJIFILM

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OLYMPUS

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1GB	48.90
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Uniross CRV3	8.90
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RiVision Blue 8x DVD-R Spindle	7.40
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Datawrite 8x DVD-R Yellow x50	8.74
Datawrite Titanium 8x DVD-R Spindle	9.25
Datawrite Classic 8x DVD+R Spindle	9.49
Imation CDR 52x 700MB/80min Spindle	4.90

Equivalent - Camera Batteries
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Nikon EN EL2	9.90
Nikon EN EL3	9.90
Nikon EN EL4	19.90
Nikon EN EL5	9.90
Minolta NP200	9.90
Minolta NP400	9.90
Minolta NP500	9.90
Minolta NP700	9.90
Minolta NP800	9.90
Olympus LI-10B	9.90
Olympus LI-12B	9.90
Olympus LI-30B	9.90
Olympus BLM1	9.90
Fuji NP 30 LB	9.90
Fuji NP 40 LB	9.90
Fuji NP 60 LB	9.90
Fuji NP 80 LB	9.90
Fuji NP 120 LB	9.90
Canon BP 511	9.90
Canon NB 1LH	9.90
Canon NB 2L	9.90
Canon NB 3L	9.00
Canon NB 4L	9.90
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SONY

DSC S600	£139.99
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CANON

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SONY

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CANON

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PANASONIC

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PANASONIC NV-GS300B	£549.99
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PANASONIC VDR-D100B	£339.99
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SONY

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SONY DRC HC24	£264.99
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SONY DCR DVD 205	£399.99
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SONY DCR DVD 405	£559.99
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dvd recorders

PANASONIC

PANASONIC DMR-ES20D	£164.99
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JVC DR-M100SEK	£159.99

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Using This Guide

UP TO £200 | £200 - £300 | £300 - £400 | £400 - £600 | £600 - £7000

STREET PRICE
Estimated street price at time of press. (Prices may vary)

RRP
The price at launch. Test rating based on this price

SPECIFICATION LIST
The key features you should check when comparing models

EXPOSURE MODES
P= Program, A = Aperture priority, S= Shutter priority, M = Manual

SUMMARY
A precis of our test verdict

£610 Estimated Street Price
(£749 RRP)

Canon 350D

CMOS 8.3MP, 8MP effective
LENS Canon EF/EF-S mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES PASM, A-DEP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH Hotshoe, GN 13m (ISO 100)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical, 1.8" 115,000 pixel LCD
OTHER CF I/II, 9 custom functions, USB 2.0, RAW +JPEG
POWER Rechargable Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 126.5 x 94.2 x 64mm/485g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, fast, performance, image quality
CONS LCD , some button placements

SUMMARY ***Well designed, fast and produces great results, good for semi-pros***

WDC SCORE 90%
TESTED May 2005

MAKE AND MODEL
Cameras are listed in ascending order of price

SENSOR SIZE
How many megapixels? A guide to image quality

AWARDS
A gold rosette is given for highly recommended models

OVERALL SCORE
Total score out of 100, plus date model was tested

About the Ratings

RATINGS Products are rated out of 20 by five criteria which, when combined, provide a mark out of a hundred.
FEATURES How well specified is the product? Does it have all the features that you're likely to need?
DESIGN Is the design stylish or ugly? Comfortable or awkward? Functional or impractical? Design is about handling as well as looks.
PERFORMANCE How does it handle? Are the buttons well placed? Is the menu simple? Is it responsive or sluggish?
QUALITY How are the results? Sharp or soft? Is the colour accurate? Do the images suffer from noise, fringing, distortion?
VALUE Is it competitively priced? How does it compare with its nearest rivals? Our scores are based upon the retail price at launch (RRP).

In this volatile market prices change almost monthly, and as cameras become cheaper they inevitably become better value. It would be impractical and confusing to change the scores every month, so we include the RRP along with the current average street price. Where there's a big difference it can be assumed that the product is now better value than when it was tested, but also that it may be coming towards the end of its natural shelf life. Highly recommended cameras receive the WDC rosette.

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On The Web

You'll find product photos and 360° Quicktime tours of virtually every current camera, plus sample test images taken by our reviewers for you to view or download. You can also buy tests or back issues online, or subscribe. In addition you'll find daily news on all the latest product launches, reader forums, a gallery for your own pictures, plus loads of features and techniques, useful links, competitions, events listings, bookshop and lots more, just visit www.whatdigitalcamera.com

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£70 Estimated Street Price (£99 RRP) — HP M22

CCD 4.05MP effective
LENS 37mm f/2.8-6.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1800sec
ISO Auto, 100-400
EXPOSURE MODES P + 8 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/1.5inch 61,600 pixel Active Matrix
OTHER 320x240 24fps Video, SD/MMC, ±3EV in 1/3EV steps
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 96 x 29 x 49mm/120g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Ease of use, size
CONS Limited features, slow, digital zoom only
SUMMARY ***No optical zoom and little control, but delivers in image quality***

WDC SCORE **80%** TESTED Oct 2005

£120 Estimated Street Price (£149 RRP) — Nikon 4600

CCD 3.9MP effective
LENS 34-102mm
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/3000sec
ISO Auto
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH GN 3.3m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Yes/1.8inch
OTHER SD, Best Shot Selector, auto & manual focus, USB
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 85 x 60 x 35mm/130g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple to use, good price, punchy results
CONS Maybe too basic, difficulty resolving fine detail
SUMMARY ***Very basic and easy to use, and produces punchy images***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED May 2005

£120 Estimated Street Price (£179 RRP) — Kodak Z700

CCD 4.1MP
LENS 35-175 mm f/2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, sport, landscape, close-up, 13 Sc
FLASH Built in, GN 9.5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 1.6in
OTHER Storage SD cards, Pictbridge, ±2.0 EV
POWER 2CR-V3, 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94 x 72 x 54.5mm/ 219g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Great specification at a great price
CONS A bit lethargic, slightly blocky images
SUMMARY ***Great specifications, however it doesn't quite deliver***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Dec 2005

£130 Estimated Street Price (£200 RRP) — Panasonic LZ1

CCD 4.2MP CCD, 4.0 MP effective
LENS 37-222mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Scene modes, Mov
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2in LCD
OTHER SD, Image stabilisation
POWER 2x AA (NiMH recommended)
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 101 x 64 x 33mm/224g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Zoom range, image stabilisation, price
CONS Focus can miss sometimes, low ISO
SUMMARY ***Good specifications and features make this a great-value camera***

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED June 2005

£130 Estimated Street Price (£239 RRP) — Canon A520

CCD 4.2MP total, 4.0MP effective
LENS 34-140mm f2.6 – 5.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 5 pic modes, 8 scene modes
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD
POWER 2x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 64 x 38.5mm/180g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Accomplished performer
CONS Could be quicker and quieter
SUMMARY ***Assured performance by a capable camera, producing fine images***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED July 2005

£160 Estimated Street Price (£199 RRP) — HP R717

CCD 6.4MP total, 6.2MP effective
LENS 39-117mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 16 - 1/2000th sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 320
EXPOSURE MODES: Auto, AP, 10 scene modes
FLASH Built in 5m (W) 2.8m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in
OTHER SD/MMC, 32MB int, USB, 320x240pixel MPEG1 movies
POWER Li-ion battery
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 98.5 x 35.3 x60mm/180g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Ease of use, Real Imaging Technology
CONS Limited macro mde, images lack punch
SUMMARY ***Easy to operate, but speed and picture quality are not perfect***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Aug 2005

£160 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Olympus MJU Mini S

CCD 5.4MP (total) 5MP (Effective)
LENS 35-70mm (equiv) f/3.5-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 1/2-1/1000sec
ISO 64-400 plus auto
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Movie
FLASH Built-in GN 5.4
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR No viewfinder/1.8in LCD
OTHER xD, Histogram, three colours
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 55.5 x 275mm/115g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Black finish very tactile
CONS Images better then expected but not perfect
SUMMARY ***Style over substance, adequate images with some decent features***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED July 2005

£160 Estimated Street Price (£200 RRP) — Samsung L50

CCD 5MP effective/5.36MP Total
LENS 39-109mm f3.2-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100,200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Program, 11 scene
FLASH 0.2.5m-2.0m (W) / 0.3-1.5m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD 230,000 pixel
OTHER SD, 26MB internal, 30fps movie with stabilizer
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93.3 x 52.1 x 22.3mm/120g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD size, lightweight
CONS Menu is not very user-friendly
SUMMARY ***Nice point and shoot, producing pleasing photos. Complicated menus***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Dec 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£170 RRP) — Casio EX-Z10

CCD 5MP total, 5.25MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f3.1-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/2000th sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES: Auto, M, A, S, 28 Scene modes
FLASH 0.4-3.1m (W)/ 0.4-1.8 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD 84,960 pixels
OTHER SD, 23Mb int, USB 2.0, 64x480 pixel 30fps movies
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 60 x 27.2mm/138g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Feature set, price
CONS Image noise, LCD resolution, menu system
SUMMARY ***Great features for the price, but not very user-friendly***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Feb 2006

£170 Estimated Street Price (£220 RRP) — Olympus MJU 600

CCD 6MP effective/6.4MP Total
LENS 35-105mm f3.1-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/1000 sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, 23 Scene, movie
FLASH Built in, GN 6.5
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, 8MB internal, 640x480 15fps movies
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97 x 55 x 26.5mm/140g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD in low light, start-up speed
CONS Some soft images, LCD in bright sunlight
SUMMARY ***Attractive, well built, ultimately impressing, but limited manual features***

WDC SCORE **84%** TESTED Dec 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£260 RRP) — Kodak Z740

CCD 5.36MP CCD, 5.0MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto plus ISO 80,100, 200, 400, 800
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 16 Scene, Mov
FLASH Built in GN 10.6
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 35MB internal storage, USB and 640 x 480 movie
POWER 2x AA, 1x CR-V3 or EasyShare dock with Ni-MH battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97.6 x 77.5 x 72mm/287g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS 10x optical zoom, comfortable to hold
CONS Fringing, no manual white balance, fiddly joystick
SUMMARY ***Easy to use with plenty of features, some image quality issues***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED May 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£230 RRP) — Olympus FE 5500

CCD 4.9MP effective, 5.3MP total
LENS 35-105mm f/2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 2 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800 (1.8MP)
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Scene
FLASH 3.5m (W) / 5m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2-inch LCD 115,000 pixels
OTHER xD, Pictbridge, 14MB int
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94 x 61 x 24mm/175g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Easy to use, good for snapshots
CONS Uninspiring, fringing, cold colour
SUMMARY ***Average, if uninspiring beginner model with interesting lens construction***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Nov 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£229 RRP) — KonicaMinolta X60

CCD 5.4MP total /5.0 MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f/3.3 – 4.0
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO A, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, 6 Scene modes
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 15MB internal memory, SD, 3 filters
POWER Li-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 83.5 x 56 x 22mm/115g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Large LCD size, fast startup
CONS Limited features, image noise
SUMMARY ***Despite limited features, this is quick, easy to operate and capable***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Sept 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Samsung i5

CCD 5MP effective, 5.1MP total
LENS 39-117mm f3.5 - f4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 16 - 1/2000 sec
ISO Auto, 100/200/400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, 11 Scene
FLASH 0.2m - 2.4m (W)/ 0.3-1.9m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None / 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, 30fps video, movie with stabiliser
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89.6 x 59.8 x 17.3mm/133g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast start-up, feature set
CONS Over-complicated menu
SUMMARY ***Good looking and well featured, but the menu systems are tricky***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Nov 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Kodak V530

CCD 5.36MP total, 5MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/448sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800 (1.8MP)
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 20 scene
FLASH 0.6-2.8m (W) /1.9m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None / 2in LCD, 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 5 colour modes, 16MB internal memory
POWER Li-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 50 x 22mm/ 130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Plentiful scene modes
CONS Slow optical zoom, LCD in bright light
SUMMARY ***Decent, easy to use entry-level compact with good scene modes***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Nov 2005

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

THE BUYERS' GUIDE

cameras up to £200

£170 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) — Sony W5

CCD 5.25MP CCD, 5.1 MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Manual, 7 scene modes
FLASH Built in 0.2-4.5 (W) 0.3-2.5 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER MS, MS Pro, 32MB internal
POWER Nikon EN-EL8
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 37.1mm/253g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD screen, fast operation, sturdy build
CONS No separate playback button, less effective in low light

SUMMARY ***Sturdy, quick and produces good images – a family compact***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Aug 2005

£180 Estimated Street Price (£230 RRP) — Ricoh R1V

CCD 5.2MP (total) 5.1MP (Effective)
LENS 28-135mm f/3.3-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO 64-800 plus auto
EXPOSURE MODES: P, plus 6 Scene modes
FLASH Built-in GN 9m at ISO100
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 1.8in LCD
OTHER 1cm macro focusing, text recording mode
POWER 2xAA/Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 100 x 55 x 25mm/150g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, focal length range, excellent macro
CONS Images a bit grainy

SUMMARY ***Well built, with decent feature set, though image grain is disappointing***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED May 2005

£180 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Nikon S1

CCD 5.36MP total, 5.0MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f/3.0 – f/5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 2 - 1/350sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, 13 scene, 4 scene assist
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR No viewfinder / 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, 12MB internal
POWER Nikon EN-EL8
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89.9 x 57.5 x 19.mm/118g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Large LCD screen, easy to operate, D-lighting
CONS Often tricky macro focusing, eats battery power

SUMMARY ***Stylish and easy to use with limited features***

WDC SCORE **84%** TESTED July 2005

£180 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Olympus Mju 500

CCD 5MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f/3.1-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/1000sec
ISO 64-640
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH GN 7.8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, PictBridge, 1.5fps for 4 frames
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99 x 55.5 x 31mm/165g

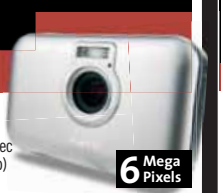
5 Mega Pixels

PROS Build quality, image colour & sharpness, LCD
CONS Some image noise, limited control

SUMMARY ***Weatherproof and simple to use, with a great LCD screen***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Apr 2005

£180 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Sanyo Xacti E6



CCD 7MP effective/6.37MP Total
LENS 38-114mm f3.3-4.0
SHUTTER SPEED 2sec (lamp) - 1/2000sec
ISO 50, 100, 200, 400, max 1800 (Lamp)
EXPOSURE MODES P, 7 scene modes
FLASH 10cm-2.4m (W)/ 50cm-2m(T) GN 5.6
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 3in LCD 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, 16Mb int, 7 filters, 640x480 30fps movies
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97.7 x 59.5 x 22.8/134g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast startup
CONS Noise, lack of shooting info, exposures

SUMMARY ***Attractive, but rather difficult to use and image noise is a problem***

WDC SCORE **78%** TESTED Jan 2006

£190 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Samsung V700

CCD 7.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm
SHUTTER SPEED 15sec - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50,100,200,400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Yes/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD, Composite mode, Pictbridge, Histogram USB2
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 56.5 x 105 x 29.5mm/150g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Good noise control, plenty of features
CONS Difficult to use features effectively, artefacts

SUMMARY ***Packed with features, tricky to operate and images are over processed***

WDC SCORE **80%** TESTED May 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£240 RRP) — Panasonic LZ2

CCD 5.36MP total, 5MP effective
LENS 37-222mm f2.8-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Sc, Mov
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 2in LCD
OTHER SD, Image Stabilisation
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 101 x 64 x 33mm/224g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Lens, price, image stabilisation
CONS Some image noise, bulkier than most compacts

SUMMARY ***Fantastic lens and good colour at very reasonable price***

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED July 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Fujifilm Z1

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f/3.5-8.3
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES P + 5 Scene
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 55 x 18.6mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, ease of use, build quality
CONS Limited overrides, some lens distortion

SUMMARY ***Attractive, pretty fast and capable of decent pictures***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Oct 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Panasonic FX8

CCD 5MP
LENS 35-105mm f/2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES Program AE, 12 Sc, Mov
FLASH 0.3-4.0m (Wide/ISO Auto), 0.3-2.2m (Tele/ISO Auto)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, Image Stabilisation (OIS), continuous shooting
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94.1 x 50.5 x 24.2mm/155g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Mega OIS, LCD, video, simplicity
CONS Cramped thumb space, average image quality

SUMMARY ***Competent lifestyle camera with great movie mode and stabilisation***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Sept 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Nikon P2

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-126mm f/2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, 16 Sc
FLASH Built-in/GN11
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 640x480 15fps Video, USB 2.0
POWER EN-EL8 Li-ion rechargeable battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 39 x/185g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Metering, AF, exposure, range of features
CONS No optical viewfinder, no storage card

SUMMARY ***Easy to use, innovative Wi-Fi technology and decent picture quality***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Jan 2006

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

£190 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — KonicaMinolta Dimage X1

CCD Total 8.3MP, Effective 8.0MP
LENS 37-111mm f3.5-3.8
SHUTTER SPEED 1 - 1/1250sec
ISO Auto, 50 -200 (Auto 50-160)
EXPOSURE MODES P, 7 Scene modes
FLASH Auto plus 5 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER 640x480 pixels 30fps, SD
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 68 x 19.5mm/135g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Anti-shake, image size, LCD size
CONS Slow in review mode

SUMMARY ***High resolution, and easy to use with a bundle of features***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Nov 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£220 RRP) — Ricoh R30

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 28-160mm f3.3-4.8
ISO Auto, 64-800
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
EXPOSURE MODES P, 8 Scene
FLASH 0.2m-2.4m (W) - 1.14-1.85 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER 320x240 AVI movie, SD/MMC, 28MB internal
POWER Lithium ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 26 x 53mm/135g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS 1cm macro, fast start, battery life, lens
CONS Noise in shadow areas, limited controls

SUMMARY ***Versatile wideangle lens and reasonable price. A good overall package***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Mar 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£270 RRP) — HP R818

CCD 5.13MP effective
LENS 36-180mm f/2.8-4.7
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P + 11 Scene
FLASH Built-in Auto + 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2in LCD
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, SD
POWER Lithium ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93 x 57 x 30mm/190g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, features, control balance of buttons & menus
CONS Occasionally a little slow

SUMMARY ***No-nonsense model delivering excellent results with minimal fuss***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Mar 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£200 RRP) — BenQ X600

CCD 6MP effective
LENS 37.5-112.5mm f/2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES P, 10 Scene
FLASH 4 modes, max range 2.7m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, SD storage
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 85.5 x 53.5 x 19mm/100g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Wide specification
CONS Fiddly five-way controller

SUMMARY ***Reasonably priced, but performance doesn't match the promise***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED Mar 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) — Casio EX-Z500

CCD 5MP effective
LENS 36-114mm f/2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, + 31 Scene
FLASH Built-in auto, 4 modes, max range 2.4m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.7in LCD
OTHER 640x480 @ 30fps Video, SD
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88.5 x 57 x 20mm/112g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Attractive, big screen, uncluttered layout
CONS LCD colour, some controls in menus

SUMMARY ***At its best in bright sunlight; results are less pleasing in low light***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Mar 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) Fujifilm F10

CCD 6.63 Total, 6.3MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-5
SHUTTER SPEED 3 - 1/2000sec
ISO 80-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Scene, Mov
FLASH Built-in, 4m(W) - 6.5m(T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD storage
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 58 x 27.3mm/200g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Big LCD, handling, low-light performance
CONS Little manual control, no RAW

WDC SCORE 87%

SUMMARY ***Stylish, responsive, producing excellent images. Good ISO performance***

TESTED June 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£275 RRP) Olympus IR-300

CCD 5MP
LENS 38-114mm f3.3-4.0
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/2000 sec
ISO Auto
EXPOSURE MODES: P, plus 17 Scene modes
FLASH 0.3m-2.6m (W) 0.5m-2.1m (T) GN 6.0
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2in LCD
OTHER xD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99 x 53 x 22mm /112g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Lightweight, easy to operate
CONS No ISO control, editing features fair, manual on the CD

WDC SCORE 82%

SUMMARY ***Takes decent photographs, but overall a very average, overpriced camera***

TESTED Oct 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) Casio EX-Z57

CCD 5MP
LENS 35-105mm, f2.6-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 4sec - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50,100,200,400
EXPOSURE MODES P, BestShot modes
FLASH Built in 0.2-2.6m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.7in LCD
OTHER MS, MS Pro
POWER Superlife Rechargeable Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 87 x 58 x 22.5mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Compact size, BestShot modes, battery life
CONS No AV connection, lack of space around back

WDC SCORE 83%

SUMMARY ***Not the easiest to operate, but a decent camera with satisfactory results***

TESTED Aug 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£320 RRP) Nikon S2

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f/3-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 15 Sc, Mov
FLASH 0.3-2.5m (Wide/ISO Auto), 0.3-1.4m(Tele/ISO Auto)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in
OTHER SD, all weather, USB camera dock
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91.9 x 59 x 22mm/140g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good front design, good scene modes, all-weather
CONS Cramped back, corner sharpness, lens distortion

WDC SCORE 80%

SUMMARY ***Looks great, but let down by image quality and handling issues***

TESTED Sept 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) HP R817

CCD 5.31MP total, 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-180mm
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, Auto, Scene
FLASH 3.8-8m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2inch 153,000 pixels
OTHER Real Life Technologies, SD, JPEG, PictBridge
POWER Li-ion battery
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 30 x 57mm/ 190g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good feature set, easy to use, value for money
CONS ISO 200+ noise, video mode, spoilable finish

WDC SCORE 86%

SUMMARY ***Specifications and features make it attractive for the first-time buyer***

TESTED Nov 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) Pentax WPi

CCD Total 6.4MP/ effective 6.1MP
LENS 38-114 mm f3.3-4.0
SHUTTER SPEED 2sec - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P, Auto, 11 scene
FLASH 3.1m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2in LCD 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 10.5MB int, 7 filters, 320x240 fps movie, Water resistant
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 102 x 51 x 22mm/135g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Waterproof, ease of use, sharpness
CONS Image noise, slow continuous drive

WDC SCORE 84%

SUMMARY ***A competent camera, offering simple operation and water proofing***

TESTED Feb 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£299RRP) Sony P200

CCD 7.2MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8 – f/5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 30 – 1/1000th sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program & 9 scene modes
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical / 2in LCD
OTHER MS, MS Pro
POWER InfoLITHIUM NP-FR1
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104 x 51.5 x 27.9mm/180g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast, good-quality images, build
CONS LCD visibility in bright sunlight

WDC SCORE 84%

SUMMARY ***Impressively specified in a small body, but images are noisy***

TESTED July 2005

£200 Estimated Street Price (£319 RRP) Canon IXUS iZoom

CCD 5.5MP CCD, 5.0 MP effective
LENS 38-90mm f/3.2-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/1600 sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 'manual', 6 Scene modes
FLASH Built in 0.3-2m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None / 1.8in LCD, 118,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 96 x 45 x 24mm / 105g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Compact size, easy to use modes, battery life
CONS Limited overrides, limited zoom range

WDC SCORE 79%

SUMMARY ***An effective, if not groundbreaking, performance***

TESTED Dec 2005

£210 Estimated Street Price (£380 RRP) Fujifilm E550

CCD 6.3MP
LENS 32.5-130mm
SHUTTER SPEED 3sec - 1/2000sec
ISO 80/100/200/400/800
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH 4.5m (W) 2.2m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2in LCD
OTHER xD, ISO 800 @3MP Resolution
POWER 2xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 105x 63 x 34.4 mm/200g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS 6MP sensor, LCD, handling
CONS 12MP output quality, noise above ISO 200

WDC SCORE 85%

SUMMARY ***A rather nice camera with plenty of options for the enthusiast***

TESTED Jan 2005

£210 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) Fujifilm S5600

CCD Total 5.2MP, Effective 5.1MP
LENS 38-380mm f3.2-3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, + 18 scene, ±2EV
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/ 2inch 115,000-pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88 x 60 x 36.5mm/150g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, handling
CONS Oversharpening, no stabilisation

WDC SCORE 86%

SUMMARY ***Has good handling and performance, and it's easy-to-use too***

TESTED Special 05

£210 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) Nikon S3

CCD Total 6.4MP, Effective 6.0MP
LENS 35-105mm f/3-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 2 - 1/350sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 16 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5inch LCD, 110,000 pixels
OTHER 640x480 Video, SD, 12MB internal memory
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 57.5 x 19.5mm/118g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Colour rendition
CONS Some barrel distortion

WDC SCORE 82%

SUMMARY ***Great looking and capable of good pictures with little user interference***

TESTED Feb 2006

£210 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) Pentax S6

CCD Total 6MP, Effective 6.36MP
LENS 37.5-112.5mm f/2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 11 Scene, panorama
FLASH 15cm-5.1m (W)/ 40cm-2.7m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in 232,000-pixel LCD
OTHER SD, 23MB internal, six filters, 640x480 movies
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 85.5 x 53.5 x 19mm/235g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Lightweight, large LCD, easy to use
CONS Slow start-up and focusing, limited features

WDC SCORE 83%

SUMMARY ***Well built, but images and performance don't live up to expectations***

TESTED Feb 2006

£210 Estimated Street Price (£329 RRP) Sony W7

CCD 7.4MP total, 7.0MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 100-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, 6 scene modes
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5inch LCD
OTHER MS, slot, 32MB internal
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 37.1mm/ 253g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Great performer all round
CONS High-resolution images

WDC SCORE 86%

SUMMARY ***Good specs and handling, great images, use a tripod in low light levels***

TESTED July 2005

£210 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) Kodak V550

CCD Total 5.36MP, Effective 5.0MP
LENS 36-108mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/1448sec
ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto + 20 Scene modes, video
FLASH Built in, 2.6-6m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/ 2.5in LCD, 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD card plus 32MB internal, camera dock
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94 x 56 x 22mm/143g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple, good images
CONS Video zoom noise, can't disable digital zoom

WDC SCORE 85%

SUMMARY ***Smart, simple and effective, video mode is disappointing***

TESTED Special 05

£220 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) Sony T5

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f3.5-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/1000sec
ISO 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, Scene modes, Mov
FLASH Built in, GN8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5in LCD
OTHER Memory Stick Duo, 680x480 30fps movies, USB 2.0
POWER Lithium-ion rechargeable battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93.6 x 60 x 20.3mm/114g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, metering and AF, styling
CONS No optical viewfinder, slow menus, basic controls

WDC SCORE 86%

SUMMARY ***Attractive, compact and capable of producing great pictures***

TESTED Jan 2006

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

THE BUYERS' GUIDE

cameras £200 - £300

£220 Estimated Street Price (£330 RRP) — Casio EX-Z750

CCD 7.4MP total, 7.2MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f/2.8-5.1
SHUTTER SPEED 60 - 1/6000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Snapshot, M, A, S, 30 scene
FLASH Built-in GN8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD
POWER Li-Ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89 x 58.5 x 22.5mm/ 127g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Movie modes, scene modes
CONS LCD, Colour accuracy, images no better than 5MP

SUMMARY **Good movie and scene modes, extra pixels contribute little**

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED July 2005

£220 Estimated Street Price (£299RRP) — Olympus Mju 800

CCD Total 8.3MP, Effective 8.0MP
LENS 38-114mm f/2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S + 19 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD card and 19MB int
POWER Lithium-ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 103 x 58 x 33mm/181.5g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, LCD screen, build quality
CONS Left-hand backplate button visibility in bright sun

SUMMARY **Good looking camera, producing high-quality images**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Oct 2005

£220 Estimated Street Price (£319 RRP) — Canon A620

CCD 7.1MP effective/7.4MP Total
LENS 35-140mm f2.8-4.1
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2500sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Cust, 11 scene
FLASH 45cm-4.2m (W)/ 3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2.0in TFT 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, My Colours 640x480 30fps movies
POWER 4xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104.8 x 66 x 49.1mm/235g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Wide range of features, easy to use
CONS AiAF not always accurate

SUMMARY **With features suitable for both novices and enthusiasts, this is great value**

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED Jan 2006

£230 Estimated Street Price (£320 RRP) — Nikon 7900

CCD 7.41MP CCD, 7.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, scene modes, ±2 EV
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD
OTHER SD, JPEG, 3 metering modes, D-Light, red-eye removal
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88 x 60 x 36.5mm/150g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Small, high resolution, good image noise control
CONS Image detail and sharpening, AF

SUMMARY **Contains innovative features, but produces overprocessed images**

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED June 2005

£230 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Canon Ixus 55

CCD 5.0MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/1500sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Two Auto, 9 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto and four modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in TFT, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 640x480 30fps movies
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 86 x 53 x 21.5mm/140g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, handling, speed of operation
CONS Noisy images, sharpness, erratic focusing

SUMMARY **Attractive and competent, if not a spectacular performer**

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Feb 2006

£230 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — Panasonic FX9

CCD 6MP effective/6.37MP Total
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, 14 Scene
FLASH 0.3-4m (W) 0.3-2.2 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD 207,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 30fps movie
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94.1 x 50.5 x 24.2mm/155g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD, anti-shake
CONS Limited space around back

SUMMARY **Great LCD, fast performer, producing good-quality pictures and movies**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Dec 2005

£230 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Olympus SP-500UZ

CCD Total 6.37MP, Effective 6.0MP
LENS 38-380mm f/2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, Auto, 21 Scene
FLASH 0.3m - 4.5m (W) 1.2m-3.4 T, GN9
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF 201,600pixel/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER 320x240 30fps Video, 10MB internal, xD
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 105.5 x 74.5 x 71mm/285g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS RAW, Good functionality, LCD and EVF
CONS Fringing, some oversharpening and image noise

SUMMARY **Competent and useful, this is a viable backup to a DSLR**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Dec 2005

£240 Estimated Street Price (£270 RRP) — Kodak V570

CCD Dual 5MP CCD
LENS 23mm f2.8, 39-117mm f3.9-4.4
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/4000sec
ISO Auto, 64-160
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, landscape, macro + 20 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto + 4 modes, GN 6.3
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 101 x 49 x 20mm/125g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Flexible optical system, speed, aesthetics
CONS Limited ISO range, camera shake warnings

SUMMARY **Good look, capable of great shots, lacks ISO range and user overrides**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Mar 2006

£240 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Fujifilm F11 Zoom

CCD 6.3MP
LENS 36-108mm f/2.8-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 3 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, SP, AP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH 0.3-6.5m (W) 0.3-4m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER USB 2.0, 640x480 30fps movie, xD
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 58.2 x 27.3mm/155g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS High ISO, control over aperture and shutter
CONS Occasional fringing and standard zoom range

SUMMARY **A super compact, attractive, great features and good performer**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Mar 2006

£240 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — Konica Minolta Z5

CCD 5.2MP total, 5MP effective
LENS 35-420mm f2.8-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 50,100,200,320
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, M, S, 5 scene
FLASH Built in GN 8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic viewfinder/2.0inch LCD
OTHER SD, MMC, USB 2.0, 640 x 480 movie
POWER 4x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 108.5 x 80 x 84mm/ 340g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD size, 12x opt zoom, anti-shake
CONS Noise at higher ISOs, LCD in bright sunlight

SUMMARY **Sophisticated model, chunkier than most, with a usefully wide lens**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED July 2005

£240 Estimated Street Price (£310 RRP) — Olympus SP-350

CCD Total 8.3MP, Effective 8MP
LENS 38-114mm f/2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P, 14 scene
FLASH Built in, Auto and four modes, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD 115,000 pixels
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, xD
POWER 2x AA, CRV-3 Lithium
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99.5 x 65 x 35mm/180g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Sturdy, natural colours, accurate exposures
CONS Camera shake, results at maximum resolution

SUMMARY **Good handling and performance; 8MP results can be disappointing**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Feb 2006

£240 Estimated Street Price (£330 RRP) — Ricoh R3

CCD 5.25MP total, 5.13MP effective
LENS 28-200mm f/3.3-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto plus 8 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 2.5in 114,000 pixel LCD
OTHER 320x240 30fps Video, SD + 26MB Internal
POWER Li-Ion cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 53 x 26mm/135g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Lots of useful features, great lens
CONS Some barrel distortion at 28mm, AF reticence

SUMMARY **Fast, flexible with a superb zoom range and image stabilisation**

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Jan 2006

£250 Estimated Street Price (£349 RRP) — Sony T7

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f3.5-4.4
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/1000sec
ISO 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Scene modes, Mov
FLASH Built in 0.1-2.6, Tele: 0.5-2.1
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5in LCD
OTHER Memory Stick Duo, MPEG 1, Pict Bridge, USB 2.0
POWER Info Lithium
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91.7 x 60.2 x 14.7mm/114g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, good looks
CONS Poor documentation, small and fiddly

SUMMARY **Competent performer, but fiddly to operate and needs a decent manual**

WDC SCORE **80%** TESTED Aug 2005

£250 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — Panasonic FZ5

CCD 5.0MP effective
LENS 36-432mm f/2.8-3.3
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto plus ISO 80,100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P,A,S,M, nine Scene & macro, Mov
FLASH Built-in flash, GN12.6m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, movie with sound at 320x240 pixels, 30 10 15fps
POWER 8.4V 680mAh Lithium Ion rechargeable cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 108 x 68.4 x 84.8mm /290g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Great zoom range, excellent lens
CONS Noise in low light

SUMMARY **One of the best megazoom cameras around, producing good results**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED May 2005

£250 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — KonicaMinolta Z6

CCD 6MP eff/6.4MP total
LENS 35-420mm f/2.8-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 4 - 1/1000 sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 320
EXPOSURE MODES AP, M, SP, Auto, 5 scene
FLASH ISO 100 equ 8m/26.2 ft
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/2in TFT, 114,000 pixels
OTHER 320x240movie, 4 colour modes, 1cm super macro, SD
POWER 4x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 108.5 x 80 x 84mm/340g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast operation, lens
CONS Some components weak, LCD in bright light

SUMMARY **Packed with features, producing good results. Recommended**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Nov 2005

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

£260 Estimated Street Price (£329 RRP) — Nikon S4

CCD 6.0MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 2 - 1/1000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 16 scene modes
FLASH 3.0m/10ft
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER Pictbridge, USB 2.0, SD cards, 13MB internal
POWER 2x Ni-MH AA (supplied), or 2x AA alkaline
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 111.5 x 68.5 x 37mm/205g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Size, zoom range, image quality, performance
CONS No image stabilisation, no manual control
SUMMARY ***Great lens on small body, well made, good handing and image quality***

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED Special 05

£280 Estimated Street Price (£419 RRP) — Canon IXUS 750

CCD 7.1MP effective/7.4MP Total
LENS 37-111mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000 sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P (manual), Auto, 9 Sc
FLASH 50cm-5m (W)/ 3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, 5 photo effects, My colours, 640x480 30fps Mov
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89.5 x 57 x 27.4mm/170g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast operation, build
CONS Limited manual features, some fragile parts
SUMMARY ***Fast, well-built point and shoot, but limited feature set***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Special 05

£280 Estimated Street Price (£400 RRP) — Sony H1

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-432mm f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, 7 scene modes
FLASH 0.3m – 6.8m (W) 0.9 - 5.2m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/ 2.5-inch
OTHER 640 x 480 movie, 2cm macro, MS, MSPro, 32MB internal
POWER 2x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 108 x 81.4 x 91.2mm/ 590.8g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS 12x optical zoom, feature set, build quality
CONS Lacks some pro features such as RAW
SUMMARY ***Zoom and features ensure there is plenty for the enthusiast***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Sept 2005

£280 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Ricoh GX8

CCD 8.5MP Total, 8.2MP effective
LENS 28-85mm f2.5-4.34
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/2000sec
ISO 60-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, A, M, six Scene
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/1.8in
OTHER SD slot
POWER 2xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113.6 x 58 x 29mm/205g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Lens, build, features
CONS Power consumption, LCD colour cast
SUMMARY ***Good lens, features and build. But it is power hungry and the LCD is poor***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED Aug 2005

£280 Estimated Street Price (£350RRP) — Kodak P850

CCD 5.1MP effective/5.25MP total
LENS 36-432mm f/2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 16 - 1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 50,64,80,100,125,200,250,320,400,800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P, 3 Custom
FLASH GN11 90cm-4.7m(W)/ 2m-3.6 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/2.5-inch 237,000 pixels
OTHER 640x480 30fps movies, RAW, Tiff, SD/MMC, 32MB internal
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 108 x 84.3 x 72mm /403g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, ISO settings, lens
CONS No AF lamp, slow processing, noise at high ISO
SUMMARY ***Great features and lens, but speed and handling can't match a DSLR***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED Feb 2006

£300 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Fujifilm E900

CCD 9.0MP effective/Total 9.24MP
LENS 32-128mm f2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P + Auto + 4 Scene modes
FLASH Built-in, Auto, plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2in
OTHER 640x480 pixel 30fps video, xD
POWER 2x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 106 x 63 x 34.5mm/200g

9 Mega Pixels

PROS Fantastic spec, great user control
CONS 9MP results not much better than 5MP
SUMMARY ***Good specification and value for money, but do we really need 9MP?***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Jan 2006

£320 Estimated Street Price (£469 RRP) — Canon S2 IS

CCD 5.0MP effective
LENS 38-432mm f2.8-3.1
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/3200sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Auto, plus 6 Scene modes
FLASH Built-in pop-up
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF / 1.8inch LCD
OTHER SD, Flexizone focus, Image Stabilisation
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113 x 78 x 75.5mm/405g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good AF, Image stabiliser ideal for 12x zoom
CONS Bit bulky, bit pricey, only saves to JPEG
SUMMARY ***Fast, good metering, focusing and stabilisation. Often unusual fringing***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED Aug 2005

£330 Estimated Street Price (£549 RRP) — Konica Minolta A200

CCD 8.0MP effective
LENS 28-200mm f2.8-3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/32000 sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P,A,S,M, 4 Sc
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/1.8in Vari-Angle LCD
OTHER CF Type I/II, 10fps, 40-frame buffer at 640x480
POWER NP-800 Li-ion battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 114 x 80 x 115mm/505g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Excellent optics & metering, images, handling
CONS AF foibles, sensitive shutter release
SUMMARY ***A lot of camera for the price, and easier to use than the A2***

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED Apr 2005

£340 Estimated Street Price (£450 RRP) — Panasonic LX1

CCD 8.61MP total, 8.4MP effective
LENS 28-112mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 60 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, plus 14 Scene
FLASH Auto, plus 6
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in TFT, 207,000 pixels
OTHER 848x480 30fps movie, SD, Jpeg, RAW, TIFF
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 106 x 56 x 25.5mm/185g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Fully featured, unique CCD format
CONS Noise can be an issue over ISO 100, expensive
SUMMARY ***Full specifications with simple handling, nice design and good build***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Nov 2005

£340 Estimated Street Price (£450 RRP) — Kodak P880

CCD Total 8.1MP, Effective 8.0MP
LENS 24-140mm f/2.8-4.1
SHUTTER SPEED 16-1/4000sec
ISO Auto, 50-1600
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 3 PIC + 8 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/ 2inch 115,000 pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD, 13MB internal
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88 x 60 x 36.5mm/150g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Great spec, useful focal lengths, high resolution
CONS Handling, noise in flat tonal areas even at ISO 50
SUMMARY ***Great specification and price point, producing rather ordinary images***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Special 05

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

£350 Estimated Street Price (£500 RRP) — Canon S80

CCD 8.0 MP effective, 8.3MP total
LENS 28-100mm
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P,A,S,M, Sc, Mov
FLASH 4.2m(W) 2m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/ 2.5in, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104 x 57 x 39mm/290g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Interface, images, features
CONS No Raw, price
SUMMARY ***Great handling and picture quality, ideal for the advanced enthusiast***

WDC SCORE **90%** TESTED Jan 2006

£360 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP) — Nikon D50

CCD 6.24MP/6.1MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000sec, Bulb
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Sc
FLASH GN 15m (ISO200), hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2in LCD
OTHER SD, 3 Colour space, Pictbridge, USB 2.0
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 133 x 102 x 76mm/540g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple, image quality, design & build, price
CONS Lacks some features such as PC socket
SUMMARY ***Controls are stripped back, but it is easy to use and fast at a good price***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Aug 2005

£380 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP) — Panasonic FZ30

CCD 8MP effective, 8.3MP total
LENS 35-420mm, f/2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 60 - 1/2000sec
ISO 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, plus 14 Sc
FLASH GN 7 (auto) hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/2in LCD 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD, Pictbridge, USB 2.0, Mega OIS, RAW
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 141 x 86 x 138mm/740g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, handling, EVF, good images possible
CONS Noise at high ISO, camera shake, RAW conversion
SUMMARY ***Good features and spec, however it suffers from noise at ISO 200***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Nov 2005

£380 Estimated Street Price (£500 RRP) — Fujifilm S9500

CCD 9.2MP Total, 9MP effective
LENS 28-300mm f/2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 1/4 - 1/4000sec
ISO 80-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P + 5 Scene, Mov
FLASH Built-in/hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF /1.8in 235,000 pixel LCD
OTHER xD and CF I & II slots
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 128 x 93 x 129mm/645g

9 Mega Pixels

PROS Low image noise, good features
CONS Some quirky handling, expensive
SUMMARY ***Minor quirks aside, a good camera producing images with little noise***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Dec 2005

£399 Estimated Street Price (£399 RRP) — Ricoh GR Digital

CCD Total 8.3MP, Effective 8.13MP
LENS 28mm f/2.4
SHUTTER SPEED 180-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, P, + 2 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 5 modes, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Hotshoe-based optical/ 2in LCD
OTHER 320x240 Video, SD
POWER Li-ion/ 2xAAA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 107 x 58 x 25mm/170g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Great spec, excellent lens, user-adaptable control
CONS Lack of sharpness in 100% JPEGs, some noise
SUMMARY ***A unique camera, with a great lens, best results in RAW mode***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Feb 2006

THE WORD
On the street
Camera dealers' hot offers

cameraWORLD

"We have so many great deals at present, but the Sony Cybershot DSC-R1, with its SLR size 10.3MP chip, large multi-angle LCD and a Zeiss T* 24-120mm lens, is an exceptional camera at an amazing price. WDC readers can get it with a 1GB Sony memory card and spare Sony battery for only £599.99."

DIGITAL FIRST

"The unexpected demise of Konica Minolta has brought bargains for the enthusiast. The Minolta Dynax 7D and 17-35 lens is down from £1299 to only £679 and the Dynax 5D with 18-70 is now only £439.99! But do hurry, we are limited to current stock."

digital DEPOT

"Olympus 'E' System SLRs are selling so well we're staging an Olympus 'E' day on April 15th at Stevenage. The new E-330 will be on show as well as the lens and accessory range. Also, from late April, we'll be offering 80-210 mm zoom lenses in Pentax K mount for just £39.90 – perfect for the Pentax *ist and new Samsung GX-1s."

UK DIGITAL One stop. Digital shop.

"UK Digital is now stocking the all-new Panasonic DMC-FZ7 digital camera – a 6.0 megapixel camera with 12x optical image stabilised zoom and 2.5in LCD, for only £299.00. See **www.ukdigital.co.uk** for further information."

£400 Estimated Street Price (£400 RRP) — Kodak Easyshare1

4 Mega Pixels

CCD 4.23MP total, 4.0MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 1/2 - 1/448sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 16 scene modes
FLASH 0.6-3.2m (W) 0.6-2.3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 3in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 256MB internal, 640 x 480 movie clips
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 103 x 63 x 26mm/225g

PROS Big LCD, touch screen, internal memory, WiFi
CONS Battery consumption, lack of manual control
SUMMARY **Innovative, great for sharing pictures, but pictures are only average**

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Dec 2005

£440 Estimated Street Price (£650 RRP) — Nikon 8400

8 Mega Pixels

CCD 8MP effective
LENS 24-85mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/3000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, ±2EV, Mov
FLASH Built-in/hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF /1.8in LCD
OTHER CF, swivel LCD, 2.3fps over five frames, RAW, TIFF, JPEG
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113.6 x 82.5 x 75mm/400g

PROS 24mm lens, functional, build quality
CONS Some fringing & noise, overly complicated menus
SUMMARY **A marked improvement on some recent Nikon cameras, very nice**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Jan 2005

£440 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP) — Samsung Pro 815

8 Mega Pixels

CCD 8.0MP effective, 8.3MP total
LENS 28-420mm f/2.2-4.6
SHUTTER SPEED 15 - 1/4000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, 2 Custom, 11 Scene
FLASH 0.7-6.0m (W), 1.5-30m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF 235,000pixels/3.5in 235,000pxls
OTHER CF I/II, Adobe RGB, sRGB, USB2, Pictbridge, 16:9 shooting
POWER Li-ion SLB-1974
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 135.5 x 87 x 78.6mm/870.5g

PROS LCD, versatile lens
CONS Noise levels, fringing, no optical image stabiliser
SUMMARY **Great lens and advanced features, capable of producing good pics**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Special 05

£450 Estimated Street Price (£500 RRP) — Sony CD500

5 Mega Pixels

CCD 5.24MP
LENS 34-102mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/1000sec
ISO 100,200,400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, Mov
FLASH GN 5m@auto/wide
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER 52mm filter thread, USB 2.0, CD-R & CD-RW storage
POWER Sony Info Lithium and charger inc
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 139 x 103 x 96mm/606g

PROS Cheap storage, fully featured, fast shutter
CONS Minor image quality concerns, slow playback
SUMMARY **A joy to use. Cost of memory is a bonus. Everything most will need**

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Oct 2003

£450 Estimated Street Price (£600 RRP) — KonicaMinolta Dynax 5D

6 Mega Pixels

CCD 6.3MP, 6.1MP effective
LENS Minolta A mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Sc
FLASH GN 15m (ISO200), hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical, 2.5in LCD
OTHER CF 1/II, 3 Colour space, Pictbridge, USB2, AntiShake CCD
POWER Rechargeable Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 130.5 x 92.5 x 66.5mm/590g

PROS Anti-shake, white balance, ISO range, size
CONS Issues with high-contrast scenes in scene modes
SUMMARY **A technically advanced but surprisingly simple well-designed camera**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Oct 2005

£480 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP) — Pentax *iST DL

6 Mega Pixels

CCD 6.31MP, 6.1MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000sec, Bulb
ISO 200-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P,A,S,M, Auto, 7 PICT modes
FLASH Pop-up and TTL hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR TTL Optical via Penta mirror/2.5in
OTHER SD storage, RAW, JPEG
POWER Four AA or 2 CRV-3
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 125 x 92.5 x 67mm/470g

PROS Simple to use, great results
CONS RAW processing software is limited
SUMMARY **Impressive results, positive handling and good build quality**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Sept 2005

£500 Estimated Street Price (£600 RRP) — Olympus E-500

8 Mega Pixels

CMOS 8.89MP total, 8MP effective
LENS FourThirds mount
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-400 boost up to 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 15 Scene modes
FLASH Pop-up GN13, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, xD, USB2.0, sRGB and Adobe RGB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 129.5 x 94.5 x 66mm/435g

PROS Feature packed, price, image quality
CONS Fiddly button positions, no dedicated DOF button
SUMMARY **Something for everyone, packs a lot into a small body for a good price**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Special 05

£530 Estimated Street Price (£1100 RRP) — Sigma SD10

3 Mega Pixels

CCD 3.4MP x 3 Foveon (10.2MP total)
LENS Sigma SA bayonet mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/6000sec & Bulb
ISO 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH No
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical TTL/ 1.8in LCD
OTHER RAW recording only, CF
POWER 4xAA or 2xCR-V3
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 152 x 120 x 79mm/950g

PROS Image quality, price, lens range
CONS RAW only, software clunky, no PC socket
SUMMARY **If you can handle the manual processing, it does the job for a good price**

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Jan 2004

£530 Estimated Street Price (£749 RRP) — Canon 350D

8 Mega Pixels

CMOS 8.3MP, 8MP effective
LENS Canon EF/EF-S mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P,A,S,M, A-DEP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH Hotshoe, GN 13m (ISO 100)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical, 1.8in 115,000pixel LCD
OTHER CF I/II, 9 custom functions, USB 2.0, RAW +JPEG
POWER Rechargable Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 126.5 x 94.2 x 64mm/485g

PROS Features, fast, performance, image quality
CONS LCD, some button placements
SUMMARY **Well designed and fast, it produces great results, good for semi-pros**

WDC SCORE **90%** TESTED May 2005

£550 Estimated Street Price (£700 RRP) — Nikon 8800

8 Mega Pixels

CCD 8.3MP total/8.0 MP effective
LENS 35-350mm f2.8-f5 (10x zoom)
SHUTTER SPEED 8 - 1/3000sec & B
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Sc, Mov, ±2EV, Custom
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 1.8in Vari-Angle LCD
OTHER CF Type I/II, 2.3fps, Pictbridge
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 116 x 85 x 121 mm/680g

PROS Lens, compact, handling
CONS Image noise, limited sensitivity
SUMMARY **Eminently usable and worthy model with good results**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Apr 2005

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

£560 Estimated Street Price (£700 RRP) — Sony R1

CCD 10.3MP effective
LENS Carl Zeiss T* 24-120mm
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/2000sec
ISO 160-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Scene, Mov
FLASH Hotshoe/Pop-up/GN18.5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 2.0in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, MS Pro, USB 2.0, sRGB, Adobe RGB, vivid RGB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 139 x 156 x 97mm/929g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Excellent images, build and design
CONS LCD and EVF hard to see, slow burst, macro

WDC SCORE **88%**

SUMMARY ***Great value; the best bridge camera on the market today***

TESTED Jan 2006

£580 Estimated Street Price (£700 RRP) — Nikon D70 S

CMOS 6.1MP effective
LENS Nikon F mount/1.5x mag
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P,A,S,M + Auto, 6 Scene
FLASH Pop-up and TTL hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR TTL Optical/ 2in LCD
OTHER Custom functions, depth of field preview
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 140 x 111 x 78mm/600g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Speed, handling, image quality, remote control
CONS Occasionally weak yellow and blues, no PC socket

WDC SCORE **90%**

SUMMARY ***Disappointing upgrade, but superb speed, features and images***

TESTED July 2005

£640 Estimated Street Price (£1150 RRP) — Konica Minolta Dynax 7D

CCD 6.1MP effective
LENS Minolta A-type bayonet
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000 sec & Bulb
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH PC socket/Hotshoe /Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical TTL/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER CF storage, 3FPS, RAW, JPEG, USB 2.0
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 150 x 106 x 77.5mm/760g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Fully featured, build, good images, Anti-shake
CONS Too many buttons, harsh noise reduction

WDC SCORE **88%**

SUMMARY ***An excellent first DSLR with great build quality and good results***

TESTED Feb 2005

£650 Estimated Street Price (£1500 RRP) — Olympus E-1

CCD 5.5MP
LENS Interchangeable 4/3 mount
SHUTTER SPEED 60- 1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P (with program shifts), A, S, M
FLASH No
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 1.8in LCD
OTHER RAW PC socket, RAW, CF storage
POWER Rechargeable Li-Ion (inc)
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 141 x 104 x 81mm/ 660g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Great image quality, easy to use, versatile
CONS Focusing can be slow, no built-in flash

WDC SCORE **93%**

SUMMARY ***The clean images more than make up for the fact that this is only 5MP***

TESTED Dec 2003

£790 Estimated Street Price (£1270 RRP) — Canon 20D

CMOS 8.2MP Effective/ 8.5MP Total
LENS Canon EOS EF, EF-S
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Scene
FLASH GN 12 @ISO 100
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in LCD
OTHER CF I/II
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 44 x 106 x 72 mm/770g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, good spec, versatile
CONS Depth of field button awkward, clunky software

WDC SCORE **91%**

SUMMARY ***Simply the best DSLR for the price on the market at the time of testing***

TESTED Dec 2004

£900 Estimated Street Price (£1000 RRP) — Panasonic LC1

CCD 4.92MP effective
LENS 28-90mm
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/4000 sec
ISO 100,200,400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH GN 4m @auto/wide
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, RAW, USB 2.0, manual focus
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 82 x 135 x 103mm/630g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, LCD, flash, image quality
CONS Limiting ISO, EVF

WDC SCORE **90%**

SUMMARY ***Less bucks than the Leica Digilux 2 for essentially the same camera***

TESTED June 2004

£1000 Estimated Street Price (£1600 RRP) — Fujifilm S3 Pro

CCD 6.17 'S', 6.17 'R' MP, 12MP output
LENS Nikon F mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH PC socket, Hotshoe, Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2in LCD
OTHER CF, xD, 2.5fps, RAW, JPEG, USB2.0, IEEE 1394
POWER 4x AA NiMH batteries, optional AC adaptor
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 47.8 x 135.3 x 78.5mm/ 815g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, ease of use, sensor
CONS Software clunky, slow drive, small buffer

WDC SCORE **85%**

SUMMARY ***It may be a slow operator but image quality is superb***

TESTED Mar 2005

£1200 Estimated Street Price (£1299 RRP) — Nikon D200

CCD 10.2MP effective
LENS Interchangeable Nikon AF
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec
ISO 100-1600 + 1 stop boost
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in
OTHER CF I/II, Jpeg, Tiff, Nef, 5fps
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 147 x 113 x 74mm/830g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, speed, handling, RAW files
CONS LCD brightness, JPEGS often need processing

WDC SCORE **90%**

SUMMARY ***Very capable, offers lots of potential, geared to RAW rather than JPEG***

TESTED Feb 2006

£1230 Estimated Street Price (£1300 RRP) — Leica Digilux 2

CCD 4.92MP effective
LENS 28-90mm
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8 - 1/4000sec
ISO 100,200,300
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH GN 4m @Auto/wide
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD storage, RAW, USB 2.0, Manual focus
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 82 x 135 x 103mm/630g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Excellent image quality, handling, design
CONS Expensive, low ISO range, EVF may be unpopular

WDC SCORE **89%**

SUMMARY ***A great piece of kit, though I can't help feeling that it is overpriced***

TESTED May 2004

£1850 Estimated Street Price (£2500 RRP) — Canon Eos 5D

CMOS 13.3MP/12.8MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec & B
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH PC socket, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, M, USB 2.0, sRGB and Adobe colour space
POWER Lithium-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 152 x 113 x 75mm/810g

13 Mega Pixels

PROS Well built, good features, speed of use, images
CONS Some fiddly controls, very faint edge fringing

WDC SCORE **91%**

SUMMARY ***Superb camera producing big images, for semi-pros and enthusiasts***

TESTED Dec 2005

YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

£2000 Estimated Street Price (£2000 RRP) — Epson RD1

CCD 6MP effective
LENS Interchangeable EM mount
SHUTTER SPEED 1 - 1/2000sec & B
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Manual, Aprture Priority AE
FLASH Hotshoe/ PC (X-sync)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Real size optical/ 2.0in LCD
OTHER SD, optical rangefinder, JPEG, RAW
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88.5 x 142 x 39.5mm/590g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, design, innovative features, RAW plug-in
CONS Vignetting, no PC connection

WDC SCORE **85%**

SUMMARY ***Quirky and fun, the world's first digital rangefinder has some image issues***

TESTED Feb 2005

£2100 Estimated Street Price (£2500 RRP) — Nikon D2Hs

CCD 4MP effective JFET
LENS Nikon fit
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec & B
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, ±5EV
FLASH Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Real size optical/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER CF, 9fps, RAW, TIFF, JPEG, USB 2.0
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 158 x 150 x 86 mm/1150g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, image quality, system support, speed
CONS 4MP may not be enough

WDC SCORE **91%**

SUMMARY ***Fast, fun and furious, however it only has a 4MP CCD***

TESTED Oct 2005

£2700 Estimated Street Price (£3050 RRP) — Canon Eos 1D MkII N

CMOS APS-C 28.7x19.1mm CMOS
LENS Canon EF
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec & B
ISO 100-1600 boost of 50 and 3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Custom, Picture Style
FLASH Hotshoe/PC Sync
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentaprism 100% view/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF/SD, RAW, JPEG, 8.5fps, 48 frames JPEG, 20 RAW
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 156 x 158 x 86 mm/1150g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, image quality, fast, good buffer rate
CONS Expensive compared to competition

WDC SCORE **91%**

SUMMARY ***Good camera, but update to original, so not really significant***

TESTED Mar 2006

£2800 Estimated Street Price (£3500 RRP) — Nikon D2X

CMOS 12MP effective
LENS MOUNT Interchangeable Nikon AF
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-800
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, ±5EV
FLASH Hotshoe/ PC (X-sync)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER CFI/II, JPEG, RAW, TIFF, 5fps over 21 in Jpeg mode
POWER Li-ion EN-EL4
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 157 x 149.5 x 85.5mm/1070g

12 Mega Pixels

PROS Great design, image quality, speed, features
CONS Single card slot, some faint fringing, software

WDC SCORE **95%**

SUMMARY ***Superb handling and packed with features, little to criticise***

TESTED May 2005

£4600 Estimated Street Price (£6000 RRP) — Canon Eos 1DS MkII

CMOS 16.7MP effective Full frame
LENS MOUNT Interchangeable EF mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30 - 1/8000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, ±3EV
FLASH Hotshoe/ PC (X-sync)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Real size optical/ 2.0in LCD
OTHER SD, CFI&II, JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW
POWER Ni-MH pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 156 x 158 x 80mm/1215g

16 Mega Pixels

PROS Superb image quality, camera body design
CONS None really, but a larger LCD would be nice

WDC SCORE **96%**

SUMMARY ***Quite simply, as good as it gets. Canon has another scorcher***

TESTED Apr 2005

The TOP lenses

Whether wide or tele, here is our pick of lenses

Wideangle zooms

£569 Street Price — Sigma 12-24mm

Name: Sigma EX 12-24mm f/4.5-5.6 DG HSM
Max Aperture: 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture: 22
Mount: Sigma, KM, Nikon, Pentax, Canon
Dimensions/Weight: 87x102.5mm/600g
Other: Digital full frame, rear filter
SUMMARY: ***A remarkable lens for its quality and focal length***

WDC SCORE **90%** June SUPP 2005

£289 Street Price — Canon 20-35mm

Name: Canon EF 20-35mm f/3.5-4.5 USM
Max Aperture: 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture: 32
Mount: Canon
Dimensions/Weight 83.5X68.9mm/340g
Other: USM, non digital
SUMMARY: ***As an analogue lens this is a remarkable performer***

WDC SCORE **89%** June SUPP 2005

D70 Kit Lens — Nikon 18-70mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 18-70mm f/3.5-4.5 G DX ED
Max Aperture: 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture: 32
Mount: Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 73x75mm/420g
Other: DX design for Nikon DX sensors
SUMMARY: ***Well made digitally dedicated lens with great performance***

WDC SCORE **87%** Jun SUPP 2005

£329 Street Price — Tamron 17-35mm

Name: Tamron SP 1F Di(IF) 17-35 f/2.8-4
Max Aperture 2.8-4
Min Aperture 22
Mount Canon, KM, Nikon, Pentax
Dimensions/Weight 83.2x86.5mm/430g
Other: APS Digital design, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Very good, solid performer and well made too***

WDC SCORE **87%** Jun SUPP 2005

£449 Street Price — Konica Minolta 17-35mm

Name: Konica Minolta AF 17-35mm f/2.8-4 D
Max Aperture 2.8-4
Min Aperture 22-32
Mount KM AF
Dimensions/Weight 83 x 88.5mm/430g
Other: Non digital, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A non-digital lens that performs better from the middle of the focal range***

WDC SCORE **84%** Jun SUPP 2005

£199 Street Price — Pentax 18-55mm

Name: Pentax DA 18-55MM f/3.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 22
Mount Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 83.5x69mm/420g
Other: Non digital,52mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A capable lens with a good price but some vignetting and edge sharpness problems***

WDC SCORE **84%** Jun SUPP 2005

£100 Street Price — Sigma 18-50mm

Name: Sigma 18-50mm f3.5-5.6 DC
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 22
Mount Sigma, Nikon, Pentax, Canon, Olympus
Dimensions/Weight 74.1x84.1x88.5mm/430g
Other: APS Digital design,58mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A budget digital lens with average performance***

WDC SCORE **81%** Jun SUPP 2005

Standard zooms

£449 Street Price — Olympus 14-54mm

Name: Olympus Digital 14-54mm f2.8-3.5
Max Aperture 2.8-3.5
Min Aperture 22
Mount Olympus 4/3
Dimensions/Weight 73.5x87.5mm/435g
Other: Digital design, 58mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Specifically designed for the 4/3 sensor, the lens ticks all the right boxes and is well made***

WDC SCORE **92%** Jun SUPP 2005

£339 Street Price — Canon 28-135mm

Name: Canon EF 28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS USM
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 32
Mount Canon
Dimensions/Weight 78.4x96.8mm/540g
Other: Non digital, Image Stabilised72mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Tough and durable, this non-digital lens doesn't disappoint***

WDC SCORE **90%** Jun SUPP 2005

£369 Street Price — KonicaMinolta 28-75mm

Name: Konica Minolta 28-75mm f/2.8 D
Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 32
Mount KM AF
Dimensions/Weight 73x94mm/510g
Other: Non digital,67mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A non-digital lens but still a good optic with a constant f/2.8 maximum aperture***

WDC SCORE **88%** Jun SUPP 2005

£269 Street Price — Tamron 28-75mm

Name: Tamron SP 28-75mm XR Di LD (IF) f/2.8 macro
Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 22
Mount Nikon, Canon, KM, Pentax
Dimensions/Weight 73x92mm/510g
Other: Non digital,73mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Digitally integrated macro lens and standard zoom with consistent results***

WDC SCORE **88%** Jun SUPP 2005

£339 Street Price — Sigma 24-60mm

Name: Sigma EX 24-60mm f/2.8 DG Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 22
Mount Nikon, Canon, Pentax, KM, Sigma
Dimensions/Weight 83.6x87.2mm/550g
Other: Full frame digital,77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Designed for full frame sensors, but can be used with smaller APS. Good constant max aperture and reasonable images***

WDC SCORE **86%** Jun SUPP 2005

£300 Street Price — Nikon 24-85mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5 G ED –IF
Max Aperture 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture 32
Mount Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 73x71mm/400g
Other: Non digital,67mm filter
SUMMARY: ***For a non-digital lens it performs reasonably well but lacks definition in low-contrast conditions***

WDC SCORE **84%** Jun SUPP 2005

£159 Street Price — Pentax 28-80mm

Name: Pentax FAJ 28-80MM f/3.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 38
Mount Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 63x67mm/180g
Other: Non digital,58mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Pentax claims the lens works equally well with film or digital, and for the size and price is a very capable performer***

WDC SCORE **84%** Jun SUPP 2005

Telephoto zooms

£1549 Street Price — Nikon 80-200mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 80-200mm f/2.8
Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 32
Mount Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 88x207mm/1580g
Other: Non digital,77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A top of the range lens bristling with quality. It's not cheap but if you want the best it's worth the price.***

WDC SCORE **93%** Jun SUPP 2005

£799 Street Price — Sigma 70-200mm

Name: Sigma APO 70-200mm f/2.8 EX HSM
Max Aperture: 2.8
Min Aperture: 32
Mount Sigma, Canon, Nikon, Pentax, KM
Dimensions/Weight 86.2x184mm/1270g
Other: Non digital, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Although it's not specifically digital, the performance is outstanding. If you can stretch to the price, an absolute must have.***

WDC SCORE **92%** Jun SUPP 2005

£699 Street Price — Olympus 50-200mm

Name: Olympus Digital ED 50-200 f/2.8-3.5
Max Aperture 2.8-3.5
Min Aperture 22
Mount Olympus 4/3
Dimensions/Weight 87x157mm/1070g
Other: Digital optimised,67mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A very good example of digital integration and improvement***

WDC SCORE **91%** Jun SUPP 2005

£139 Street Price — Minolta 75-300mm

Name: Minolta AF 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6 AP D
Max Aperture 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture 38
Mount KM AF
Dimensions/Weight 71x122mm/460g
Other: Non digital, 55mm filter
SUMMARY: ***An analogue lens but not a bad performer. Some problems in shadow areas and fringing though***

WDC SCORE **83%** Jun SUPP 2005

£199 Street Price — Pentax 75-300mm

Name: Pentax FA-J 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture: 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture: 38
Mount: Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 69x116mm/385g
Other: Non digital, 58mm filter
SUMMARY: ***A prime example of why digital lenses should be used; very poor performance on digital cameras***

WDC SCORE **80%** Jun SUPP 2005

£129 Street Price — Canon 80-200mm

Name: Canon EF 80-200mm f/4.5-5.6 II
Max Aperture 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture 29
Mount Canon
Dimensions/Weight 69x78.5mm/250g
Other: Non digital, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Canon's budget zoom is slow with fringing frequently occurring***

WDC SCORE **79%** Jun SUPP 2005

£179 Street Price — Nikon 70-300mm

Name: Nikon AF 70-300mm f4.5-5.6 G
Max Aperture 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture 38
Mount Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 74x116.5mm/425g
Other: Non digital, 62mm filter
SUMMARY: ***Nikon's budget lens lets the side down. Slow, noisy and average images***

WDC SCORE **74%** Jun SUPP 2005

TYPO Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

The TOP flash & scanners

Our pick of flashguns and film & flatbed scanners

Flashguns
illumination

£295 Street Price — Nikon Speedlight SB-800
GN 56m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/Wireless/FP mode
Compatibility: Nikon
***SUMMARY** Small but powerful flash*
WDC SCORE 93% DEC 2005

£300 Street Price — Metz 54 MZ-4i
GN 54m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/multiflash/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
***SUMMARY** Big, powerful and sophisticated*
WDC SCORE 92% DEC 2005

£350 Street Price — Canon Speedlite 580EX
GN 58m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/Wireless/FP mode
Compatibility: Canon
***SUMMARY** 105mm coverage GN58*
WDC SCORE 91% DEC 2005

£230 Street Price — Nikon Speedlight SB-600
GN 40m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-85mm coverage/Wireless CLS/FP
Compatibility: Nikon
***SUMMARY** Affordable and adaptable unit*
WDC SCORE 90% NOV 2005

£200 Street Price — Canon Speedlite 430EX
GN 43m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/wireless EX/FP mode
Compatibility: Canon
***SUMMARY** Good features & performance*
WDC SCORE 90% NOV 2005

£330 Street Price — Konica Minolta P-Flash 5600 HS (D)
GN 56m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/wireless/ FP mode
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
***SUMMARY** Powerful, flexible and capable*
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

£200 Street Price — Sigma EF-500 DG Super
GN 50m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-105mm coverage/ wireless
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon
***SUMMARY** Superlative budget choice*
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

£350 Street Price — Olympus FL50
GN 50m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus
***SUMMARY** Bit pricey but well worth it*
WDC SCORE 87% DEC 2005

£170 Street Price — Olympus FL-36
GN 36m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus 4/3
***SUMMARY** Great entree to off-camera flash work*
WDC SCORE 86% NOV 2005

£120 Street Price — Sigma EF-500 DG ST
GN 50m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-105mm coverage
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
***SUMMARY** Keen price, lacks some features*
WDC SCORE 86% NOV 2005

Flatbed
scanner

£179 Street Price — Canon 8400F
RESOLUTION 3200x6400ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Multi-photo scan, USB 2.0, FARE scratch removal
***SUMMARY** Very fast and producing good-quality scans*
WDC SCORE 91% APRIL 2005

£350 Street Price — Epson 4490
RESOLUTION ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Holders for film up to 5x4, Silver Fast AE, PS Elements 2, USB 2, Digital ICE
***SUMMARY** Good results and verstatility, but not the cheapest on the block*
WDC SCORE 90% MAY 2005

£199 Street Price — Epson 4990
RESOLUTION 4800x9400 ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Holders for 12 35mm strips, 4x mounted slides, 1x medium format, USB 2, Digital ICE
***SUMMARY** High standard of construction and excellent software*
WDC SCORE 91% March 2006

£350 Street Price — Epson 4870
TYPE & RESOLUTION 4800x9600ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Full-width TPU, 24 film frames, 8 slides capacity, roll film, 5x4in, Digital ICE
***SUMMARY** Highest spec consumer scanner yet*
WDC SCORE 90% AUG 2004

£139 Street Price — Canon LIDE 80
TYPE & RESOLUTION 2400x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Single-frame 35mm film scanning, CIS, USB2.0
***SUMMARY** Ultra-slim, fast and great results – WDC's Scanner of the Year 2003*
WDC SCORE 90% AWARDS ISSUE 2003

£129 Street Price — Canon LIDE 500F
TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Flatbed, 1200x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES 1x35mm film scanning, FARE level 3, USB 2.0
***SUMMARY** This is another slim and space saving LiDE winner from Canon*
WDC SCORE 90% March 2006

£129 Street Price — Epson 2580
TYPE & RESOLUTION Flatbed, 2400x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES USB 2.0, colour restoration & dust removal
***SUMMARY** Well-specified model producing great results for a low price*
WDC SCORE 89% JAN 2005

£129 Street Price — Canon 8000F
TYPE & RESOLUTION 2400x4600ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Scans 12 35mm film frames, FARE dust and scratch removal, USB 2.0
***SUMMARY** Good all-rounder, no roll film support*
WDC SCORE 88% MAR 2003

£200 Street Price — HP 5530
TYPE & RESOLUTION 2400x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Automatic postcard print stack and feeder
***SUMMARY** 6x4in print feeder – unique to HP*
WDC SCORE 87% AUGUST 2004

£339 Street Price — Canon 9950F
TYPE & RESOLUTION Flatbed A4
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Holders up to 5x4, PS Elements 2, USB 2, FARE
***SUMMARY** Good image and build quality, but FARE is less effective than Digital ICE*
WDC SCORE 87% MAY 2005

Film
scanner

£600 Street Price — Minolta 5400
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/5400ppi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal included
***SUMMARY** Incredibly high resolution*
WDC SCORE 91% SEPT 2004

£300 Street Price — Minolta Scan Dual IV
TYPE 35mm/APS Film scanner
FEATURES USB 2.0, 3200PPI resolution
***SUMMARY** Price, speed and quality make it good for a medium number of scans*
WDC SCORE 90% AUG 2005

£549 Street Price — Epson F-3200
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION Up to 5x4, 3200dpi/6400dpi with micro step
FEATURES USB 2, FireWire, 6X4 print scanning function
***SUMMARY** Great for multi format*
WDC SCORE 90% JUNE 2005

£800 Street Price — Microtek 4000TF
RESOLUTION 4000ppi
FILM SIZE 35mm
FEATURES USB, Firewire
***SUMMARY** SilverFast Ai Pro 6 software bundled*
WDC SCORE 90% OCT 2004

£2500 Street Price — Nikon LS9000
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm and 6x9cm roll film/4000ppi
FEATURES Digital ICE4/ROC, Firewire
***SUMMARY** Multi-format film scanner*
WDC SCORE 89% AUGUST 2004

£2276 Street Price — Minolta Pro
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm, 120/220 roll film up to 6x9cm/4800ppi
FEATURES Ultra SCSI, Firewire, Digital ICE3 dust and scratch removal
***SUMMARY** Capable of scanning roll film*
WDC SCORE 88% JULY 2004

£520 Street Price — Nikon Coolscan LS50
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm / 4000ppi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal
***SUMMARY** High resolution, fast and easy to use. Also known as the Coolscan V*
WDC SCORE 76% APRIL 2003

£1099 Street Price — Nikon LS5000
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/4000ppi
FEATURES 48-bit, 16-bit a/d, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal, USB 2.0
***SUMMARY** Very fast – 20 seconds per frame*

£400 Street Price — Microtek 3600
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/1800ppi
FEATURES USB, 36-bit
***SUMMARY** Simple manual feed film scanner for the budget-conscious*

£449 Street Price — Canon FS4000US
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm, APS/4000dpi
FEATURES APS adapter included, FARE dust and scratch removal, SCSI and USB, accepts strips and slide mounts
***SUMMARY** Competitively priced. Includes APS option*

YYEPG Proudly Presents, Ttfx for Support

The TOP printers

Buying a printer?
These are our picks

6"x4" printer

£100 Street Price — Epson PictureMate 100

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet
FEATURES USB 2.0, 1.5in LCD, optional Bluetooth and battery pack, CF, SD, xD, MS Pro, MS
SUMMARY *Good print quality, convenient, expensive for lots of pics but great for a few prints*
WDC SCORE **89%** DEC 2005

£179 Street Price — Epson PictureMate 500

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet/320 x 240dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, optional Bluetooth and battery pack, CF, SD, xD, MS Pro, SM
SUMMARY *One of the best, easiest and fast units. Versatile unit producing pleasing results*
WDC SCORE **88%** SEP 2005

£150 Street Price — Epson PictureMate

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet/Up to 5760 x 1440dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge compatible, direct printing from memory cards and Bluetooth option with adaptor
SUMMARY *Good colours & sharpness, this compact option is cheap to run, but slow*
WDC SCORE **85%** MAR 2005

£130 Street Price — Kodak PrinterDock 3

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in dye sub
FEATURES USB 2.0, Bluetooth, IRDA, Kodak camera direct printing and recharging
SUMMARY *Easy to use and quick to print with mobile phone compatibility*
WDC SCORE **86%** MAR 2006

£150 Street Price — Samsung SPP2040

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in dye-sub
FEATURES USB 2.0, CF I/II, SM, SD, MMC, MMS, xD, 2in LCD monitor
SUMMARY *Attractive and easy to use though a bit expensive. Good for the average home user*
WDC SCORE **84%** DEC 2005

£150 Street Price — Canon CP330

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in dye-sub/300dpi
FEATURES Lithium-ion battery, Pictbridge compatible, range of paper sizes, including sticker prints
SUMMARY *Produces good-quality prints at a reasonable price. Portable, thanks to battery*
WDC SCORE **83%** MAR 2005

£170 Street Price — Canon DS700

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6 x 4 inch Inkjet/ up to 4800 x 1200dpi
FEATURES Card slots, Pictbridge compatible, includes infrared remote and uses a TV as a display monitor
SUMMARY *Low-profile device that is easy to use with a TV. Print quality is on the warm side*
WDC SCORE **82%** MAR 2005

£90 Street Price — Lexmark P315

TYPE & RESOLUTION 4800x1200dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge, card slots for all current media cards, Jpeg only
SUMMARY *Not the fastest or best, but simple, inexpensive and serviceable*
WDC SCORE **83%** AUG 2005

A4 Size printer

£200 Street Price — Canon iP6000D

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/1200 x 4800 dpi
FEATURES Card slots, Pictbridge-compatible, dual paper trays, CDR/DVD printing, infrared wireless port
SUMMARY *Refined and versatile unit producing good quality prints*
WDC SCORE **90%** FEB 2005

£400 Street Price — Kodak Pro 1400

TYPE & RESOLUTION Thermal dye sub, 301dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, 8x12, 8x10, A4
SUMMARY *Expensive prints. Easy to use, producing good results with high protection and print life*
WDC SCORE **89%** NOV 2005

£159 Street Price — Canon iP5200

TYPE & RESOLUTION Inkjet, 9600 x 2400dpi
FEATURES Wireless option, five inks, PictBridge
SUMMARY *Big, purposeful, very fast and very refined*
WDC SCORE **88%** FEB 2006

£300 Street Price — Epson R800

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/Up to 5760x1440dpi
FEATURES 8 dye-based inks, eight tanks Extended gamut pigment photo inks
SUMMARY *Pleasing print quality and solid build, although it isn't Pictbridge compatible*
WDC SCORE **88%** MAR SUPP 2005

£330 Street Price — Canon iP8500

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/4800 x 2400dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge support, dual paper trays, integral duplex unit, CDR/DVD printing, USB 2.0
SUMMARY *A fast device with excellent colour range and sharpness, however it isn't cheap*
WDC SCORE **87%** MAR SUPP 2005

£100 Street Price — Canon iP4200

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 9600x400dpi
FEATURES Five inks, Pictbridge compatible, CD/DVD printing
SUMMARY *A good choice if printing from cards isn't required*
WDC SCORE **88%** FEB 2006

£100 Street Price — Lexmark P915

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 1200 x 4800dpi
FEATURES Long lasting Evercolor ink cartridge, Pictbridge compatible, Memory card slots
SUMMARY *Great value, good fade-resistant photo prints, though could be faster*
WDC SCORE **85%** FEB 2005

£100 Street Price — Epson R240

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 5760x1440dpi
FEATURES Four inks, PictBridge, built-in LCD, memory card slots
SUMMARY *Another neat package from Epson at an attractive price*
WDC SCORE **87%** FEB 2006

£170 Street Price — HP 8150

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/1200 x 4800dpi
FEATURES Memory card slots, Pictbridge compatible, optional Bluetooth and 10 x 15cm double sided prints
SUMMARY *Range of features, however borderless printing is unsatisfactory*
WDC SCORE **84%** FEB 2005

£250 Street Price — HP 8450

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 inkjet/4800 x 1200dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge compatible, Memory card slots, double- sided photo print adaptor
SUMMARY *Relatively good value and easy to use, however it's relatively slow and large*
WDC SCORE **84%** MAR SUPP 2005

A3 Size printer

£500 Street Price — Epson R2400

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet, 5760x1400 dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Firewire, borderless printing possible, roll printing
SUMMARY *Excellent print quality, good performance and attractive design*
WDC SCORE **90%** OCT 2005

£400 Street Price — Epson R1800

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet 5760x1440 dpi
FEATURES Epson Ultra Chrome Hi-Gloss inks, PictBridge
SUMMARY *Good performance at reasonable price, neutral gloss prints, matt prints dark*
WDC SCORE **89%** OCT 2005

£330 Street Price — HP Photosmart 8750

TYPE & RESOLUTION Inkjet, 4800x1200dpi
FEATURES 9 HP Vivera inks inc HP 344 Tri-Colour, four card slots, USB 2.0, PictBridge
SUMMARY *Operation is quiet and the price was good, although matt prints are too light*
WDC SCORE **88%** OCT 2005

£550 Street Price — Canon i9950

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet/4800x2400dpi
FEATURES 8 Chroma Plus inks,eight tanks, USB 2.0, Firewire (Mac only), PictBridge
SUMMARY *Very fast with good detail*
WDC SCORE **87%** OCT 2005

£350 Street Price — Epson 1290S

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet/ 2880 x 720dpi
FEATURES Epson Quick Dry 6 colour inks, panoramic photo formats
SUMMARY *Good tonal range, prints can look a little soft thanks to the low resolution*
WDC SCORE **79%** OCT 2003

Multi Function
all-in-one printer,scanner &copier

£159 Street Price — Epson CX6400

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/ 5760dpi optimised
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400/copier
INKS Epson Durabrite pigment inks
SUMMARY *A no-frills unit offering good value and good all round performance*
WDC SCORE **81%** SEPT 2004

£299 Street Price — Canon MP730

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi/copier/fax
INKS 3 colours and black
SUMMARY *Impressive scanning but prints are disappointing. Well specified and good value, though*
WDC SCORE **80%** SEPT 2004

£149 Street Price — Canon MP370

PRINTER A4 Inkjet 4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi/copier/ PictBridge
INKS 3 colours and black
SUMMARY *A great looker and competitively priced but falls short in use. It has got PictBridge, though*
WDC SCORE **78%** SEPT 2004

£200 Street Price — Canon MP390

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi CIS A4 scanner, copier,fax
INKS 4 inks (black pigment, colour dyes) 2 tanks
SUMMARY *With card and camera support this offers photo features along with the office functions*
WDC SCORE **77%** JUNE 2004

£130 Street Price — HP PSC1350

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 600x2400ppi/copier
INKS 3 colour plus black, optional photo cartidge
SUMMARY *It's a bit loud for the home environment but the scanner is quick with good density*
WDC SCORE **73%** SEPT 2004

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Storage devices

£350 Street Price — **Epson P400**

DESCRIPTION 40GB Multimedia Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES 3.8in LCD, MP3, JPEG, RAW, TIFF, AAC, MPEG 4
SUMMARY ***The great screen and compatibility with Epson printers makes this a serious bit of kit***
WDC SCORE 92% FEB 2006

£179 Street Price — **Addonics MFR CD Burner**

DESCRIPTION CD burner/ DVDS player
PLATFORMS Windows
FEATURES Portable USB 2.0 CD burner, DVD playback
SUMMARY ***If only it had 5.1 Dolby sound this little portable player could replace your domestic DVD player***
WDC SCORE 92% AUG 2004

£100 Street Price — **Kodak Easyshare Picture Viewer**

FEATURES Portable image viewer
FEATURES 256MB hard drive, 2.5in LCD,
SUMMARY ***Simple to use, good price although the hard drive has a limited capactiy***
WDC SCORE 91% OCT 2005

£299 Street Price — **Apacer Disc Steno CP-200**

FEATURES Li-ion powered Portable CD burner with 24x read, 24x write, 10x re-write, USB 2.0. Quite large.
SUPPORTS CF Type I/II, SD, MMC, MS, SM
SUMMARY ***Back up to CDs on the road while the improved interface provides greater piece of mind***
WDC SCORE 91% JUL 2004

£400 Street Price — **Jobo Giga Vue**

DESCRIPTION Picture Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows, Mac
Features 40/60GB, USB 2.0, RAW support, 320 x 480 pixel screen
SUMMARY ***A touch sensitive screen and RAW support are among the top features of this cool device***
WDC SCORE 87% APR 2005

£315 Street Price — **Jobo Giga One**

DESCRIPTION Multimedia Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows/Media
Features 20GB, 2in screen
SUMMARY ***Simple, effective and reasonably priced player that just works***
WDC SCORE 84% FEB 2006

£350 Street Price — **Apple iPod Photo**

DESCRIPTION 40/60GB Multimedia player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES AAC, MP3, WAY, JPEG,AIFF, GIF, BMP, PNG,
SUMMARY ***Limited functions, with reliance on computer. Good music player, better functionality with iPod connector***
WDC SCORE 84% MAR 2005

£400 Street Price — **Nikon Coolwalker**

DESCRIPTION Photo player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES CF slot, USB 2, 2.5in screen, JPEG, TIFF, NEF
SUMMARY ***Understandably Nikoncentric, but easy to use and quick to use and learn***
WDC SCORE 83% JULY 2005

£300 Street Price — **Innoplus Phototainer**

FEATURES JPEG viewer, MP3 and MJPEG video player with 3.5in colour screen. CF I&II only, adaptors for other cards extra. **CAPACITY** 30GB
SUMMARY ***Very similar to the Smartdisk Flashtrax Multi Media Viewer***
WDC SCORE 80% APR 2005

£258 Street Price — **Tatung Elio Photo Jukebox**

DESCRIPTION MultiMedia player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES 20GB, 3.5in LCD, JPEG, TIFF, MP3. SD, USB 2.0,
SUMMARY ***Small enough for your pocket but better suited for MP3s than photos***
WDC SCORE 80% APR 2005

Editing
software

€124 Street Price — **DxO Optios Pro 3**
DESCRIPTION Digital correction software and RAW processor
PLATFORM Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.dxo.com
SUMMARY ***Works very well, is easy to use and good value***
WDC SCORE 92% Dec 2005

£522 Street Price — **Adobe Photoshop CS2**

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/Windows 2000/XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.com
SUMMARY ***The biggest and best version yet, with even more photographic tools***
WDC SCORE 91% JULY 2005

£60 Street Price — **Ulead PhotoImpact 10**

DESCRIPTION Image Editing Suite
PLATFORMS Windows 98SE, 2000, Me or XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.ulead.com
SUMMARY ***If you're looking for a cheaper rival to Photoshop, it could be what you need***
WDC SCORE 90% FEB 2005

£69 Street Price — **Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0**

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Great new features and all the good bits of Photoshop without the hefty cost***
WDC SCORE 88% NOV 2005

£99 Street Price — **Corel Paint Shop Pro X**

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.corel.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Lots of useful features that will improve and enhance your photos with a few keystrokes***
WDC SCORE 87% NOV 2005

Organising
software

£59 Street Price — **Apple Aperture**

DESCRIPTION RAW Workflow and organising
PLATFORMS Mac OS X
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL No
SUMMARY ***Slick and fast, but let down by high cost and compatibility issues with older Macs***
WDC SCORE 85% March 2006

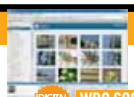
£120 Street Price — **iView Media Pro 3.0**

DESCRIPTION Digital Asset Management
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/ Windows 2000/XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.iview-multimedia.com
SUMMARY ***Catalogues a wide variety of formats quickly and effectively, with useful new features***
WDC SCORE 87% FEB 2006

£113 Street Price — **Extensis Portfolio 8**
DESCRIPTION Digital Asset Management
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/ Windows XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.com
SUMMARY ***Powerful, fast and professional DAM system but complicated for home use***
WDC SCORE 86% MAR 2006

FREE Beta — **Adobe Lightroom beta**

DESCRIPTION Raw Workflow and Organising
PLATFORMS Mac, Windows expected
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.labs.macromedia.com /technologies/lightroom
SUMMARY ***Still in Beta but very impressive thus far***
WDC SCORE 91% MAR 2006

FREE Street Price — **Picasa**

DESCRIPTION Organising software
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL http://picasa.google.com
SUMMARY ***While the tools are not advanced, this is great for the home user***
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

Plug-ins
software

£55 Street Price — **Pixel Genius Photokit Sharpener**
DESCRIPTION Image sharpening
PLATFORMS Windows / Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.pixelgenius.com
SUMMARY ***Image sharpening workflow tool, from capture to output***
WDC SCORE 91% MAY 2004

£55 Street Price — **Pixel Genius Photokit Colour**
DESCRIPTION Colour tools and effects
PLATFORMS Windows 98 and up, Mac OS 9.1
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.pixelgenius.com
SUMMARY ***Time-saving software capable of a wide variety of excellent results***
WDC SCORE 90% MAY 2005

£40 Street Price — **Iridius PS Actions**

DESCRIPTION Adobe Photoshop Actions
PLATFORMS Windows 2000/XP, Mac X
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.co.uk
SUMMARY ***For the busy photographer, the Iridus action set is a fantastic, time-saving life saver***
WDC SCORE 91% NOV 2004

£99 Street Price — **Real Viz Stitcher Express**

DESCRIPTION Panorama creator
PLATFORMS Windows 2000, SP2, XP, Mac OSX, 10.2
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.realviz.com
SUMMARY ***Simple interface and powerful stitching at a reasonable price***
WDC SCORE 88% OCT 2005

£90 Street Price — **Genuine Fractals 4.0**

DESCRIPTION Superb fractal-powered enlargement plug-in
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.dcpsystems.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Good results for anyone who wants to make large prints from their digital photographs***
WDC SCORE 88% SEP 2005

FREE Street Price — **Pixmantec Raw Shooter Essentials**

DESCRIPTION Raw image processor
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.lizardtech.com
SUMMARY ***Powerful features, elegant and smart interface, missing some advanced tools***
WDC SCORE 88% OCT 2005

£140 Street Price — **Extensis Photoframe 2.5**

DESCRIPTION Collection of edge effects
PLATFORMS Windows / Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Combine and customise any of the 2000+ natural and digital frames or create your own***

£140 Street Price — **Extensis Pixel Smart Scale**

DESCRIPTION Tool for rescaling images up to 1600%
PLATFORMS Windows / Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Enlarge images beyond their natural limits, with no loss of colour or quality***

£140 Street Price — **Extensis Mask Pro**

DESCRIPTION Professional cut outs around complex shapes
PLATFORMS Windows, Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Complex masks, selections, clipping paths made easy. Perfect edges every time***

£100 Street Price — **Nik Sharpner Pro**

DESCRIPTION Pro image sharpening tool
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.nikmultimedia.com
SUMMARY ***Precise, controllable sharpening using a choice of criteria. Top-draw plug-in***

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Internet Directory

www.whatdigitalcamera.com

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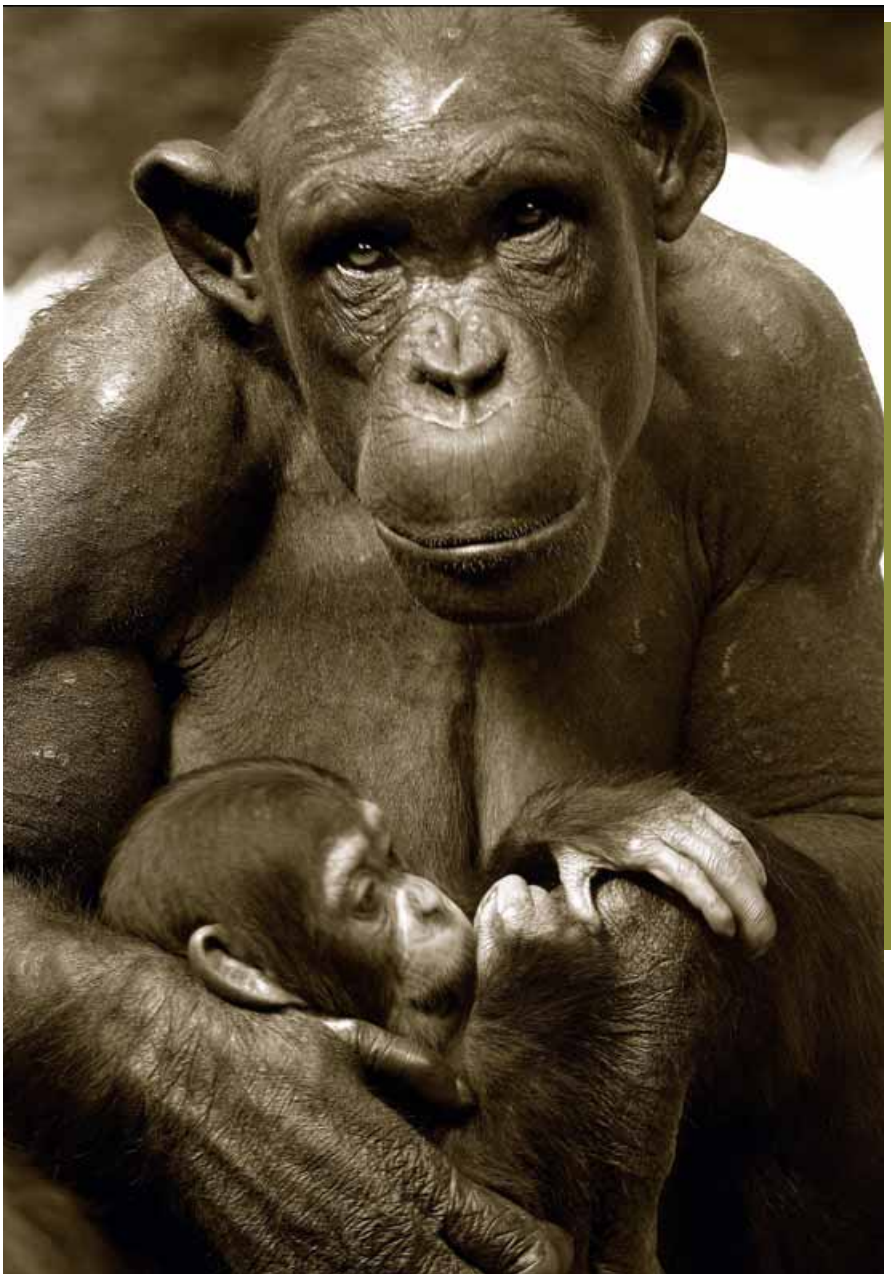

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Viewer's choice

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British Journal of Photography
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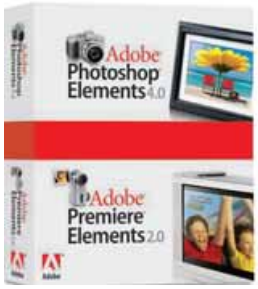

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*The suggested retail price for Adobe Photoshop Elements plus Adobe Premiere Elements is £99.99 inc VAT. Special Offer of £20 cash back is valid in the U.K. only, within six weeks of purchase, from the retailers featured. To claim £20 cash back, send in-box voucher together with proof of purchase. Offer ends October 31, 2006. Prices may vary and are subject to change. This offer is not available via the Adobe Store.

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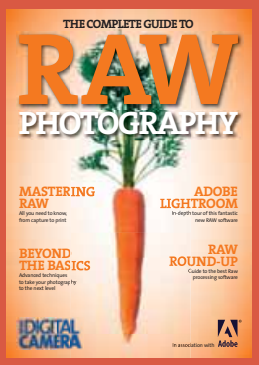

Contents

4 RAW Introduction
What is RAW, and how can it benefit your photography?

6 Shooting RAW
It's easier than it seems to change the way you shoot

8 Managing files
How to bring order to your RAW files

10 Processing files
Ready to start enhancing your RAW files? Follow our 20 first steps in RAW processing

14 Beyond the basics
Advanced techniques to take your photography to the next level

16 Adobe Lightroom
We walk you through the key features of the exciting new RAW software. Why not download the beta and get involved?

20 RAW Editor Round-up
Here's the key features of a selection of some other RAW processing programs

22 Outputting files
There are some great output options available. We take a look at them

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Philip Andrews
Adobe

WELCOME

If you're a regular reader of WDC you'll have heard a lot about RAW photography. It's a method of working designed to extract the maximum image quality from your digital photos. Most cameras process each picture as it's taken so that you get an image that's virtually ready to print straight out of the camera. But in doing so some of the information that was captured by the sensor is discarded. By shooting in the RAW file format you bypass the in-camera processing and retain all the data collected by the sensor. Shooting in RAW involves a steep learning curve, but it is ultimately worthwhile for photographers who value image quality above all else.

That's where we come in. We've prepared this comprehensive guide to working in the RAW format – it tells you everything you need to know, from start to finish.

But if you'd like even more guidance and information visit our website at **www.whatdigitalcamera.com**, where you'll also find a selection of Quicktime movie tutorials covering many of the topics featured here.

Nigel Atherton

7 GREAT QUICKTIME MOVIE TUTORIALS ON RAW CONVERSION TECHNIQUES!

Go to www.whatdigitalcamera.com and click on Downloads

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A RAW file is the photo converted from its analogue beginnings but still separated into the Bayer pattern so that each sensor site represents one colour only

RAW CONVERSION

INTRODUCTION TO RAW

What is RAW and what are the advantanges of capturing in this format for the photographer? **Philip Andrews** explains all

Most DSLRs, and more and more high-end compact cameras provide the option for switching from the traditional capture formats of JPEG and TIFF to RAW.

This capture format gives photographers more control over the digital photos they create by taking back a bunch of processing steps that until now have been handled by the camera and placing them firmly in the hands of the photographer. This offers more creative options and potentially better quality control, but along with this flexibility comes increased responsibility.

WHAT IS RAW?

All single shot digital cameras (except those using the Foveon chip) contain a sensor made up of a grid, or matrix, of light-sensitive sites. Each site responds proportionately to the amount of light hitting its surface. By recording and analysing each of these responses a tone is attributed to each sensor position in the grid. A digital picture can then be created from the range of scene brightnesses focused through the lens onto the sensor's surface. This process results in a monochrome (black, white and grey) image as the CCD or CMOS sensors themselves cannot record the colour of the light, only the amount of light hitting the sensor site.

To create colour, a small filter is added to each of the sensor sites. In most cameras these filters are a mixture of the three primary colours Red, Green and Blue and are laid out in a design called a Bayer pattern. It contains 25% red filters, 25% blue and 50% green (the higher percentage of green simulates the human eye's sensitivity to this part of the visible spectrum). Using this system the various elements of a scene are recorded as a matrix of red, green and blue pixels of varying brightnesses.

The photo in this format is what we generally refer to as a RAW file. It contains information about the brightness and colour of the scene but in a form that can't be readily edited or enhanced with standard photo software. Until the current influx of RAW-enabled digital cameras and software, photographers were blissfully unaware of the existence of such files, as the images that they received from their cameras were already converted from the RAW state to the much more familiar (and useable) JPEG or TIFF form. This conversion occurs as an integral part of the capture process where the raw data coming from the sensor is used to create a full

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Differences *between RAW and other formats*

RAW files differ from other files in that some options that are fixed during the processing of TIFFs, JPEGs etc can be changed losslessly with RAW. Think of RAW files as having three distinct sections:

- **Camera Data** (a.k.a EXIF or metadata): Includes things such as camera, shutter speed and aperture details, most of which cannot be changed;
- **Image Data**: recorded in-camera, but can be changed in a RAW editor. Changeable options include colour mode, white balance, saturation, contrast and application of sharpness.
- **The Image**: The data drawn directly from the camera's sensor sites in a non-interpolated (Bayer pattern) form. For most cameras, this data is supplied with a 16bit colour depth, providing many more colours and tones than found in a standard 8bit JPEG or TIFF camera file.

Camera Data
(f-stop, shutter speed, ISO, camera exposure mode, focusing distance etc)
Image Data
(white balance, sharpening, colour mode, tonal compensation)
Image
(full 16 or 12bit colour and tone)
RAW File

Above: A RAW file is composed of three parts: the Image, the Camera Data and the Image Data

Before a RAW file can be enhanced with a standard editing program the picture has to be interpolated into a standard RGB picture format. This conversion process is usually handled by a dedicated conversion utility such as Adobe Camera Raw

colour image. Special algorithms are employed to change the Bayer patterned data to a standard RGB form. In this process the correct colour value for each pixel is 'guesstimated' using the information from the surrounding red, green and blue sites. This process is called interpolation and works extremely well on most cameras.

So when you opt to save your images in JPEG or TIFF formats this capture and interpolation process happens internally in the camera each time you push the shutter button. Selecting RAW as your preferred capture format stops the camera from processing the colour-separated (primary) data from the sensor and simply saves this data to your memory card. This means that the full description of what the camera 'saw' is saved in the image file and is available to you for use in the production of quality images.

EXTRA PROCESSING STEP

Sounds great, doesn't it? But what's the catch? Well, RAW files have to be processed before they can be used in a standard image-editing application like Photoshop. New applications like Adobe's LightRoom and Apple's Aperture can enhance RAW files without first converting them but for the most part serious editing can only take place on a converted RAW file. So you will need to employ a special RAW converter. These programs come as either standalone pieces of software or as a dedicated feature in your favourite editing package. Some can process files from capture devices of several manufacturers, others are restricted for use with single camera models only.

Designed to allow you to take the unprocessed RAW data directly from your camera's sensor and convert it into a usable image file, these editors also provide access to other image characteristics that would otherwise be locked into the file format. Variables such as colour space, white balance, image sharpness and tonal compensation (contrast and brightness) can all be accessed, edited and enhanced as part of the conversion process.

WHY BOTHER?

So why not just stick to JPEG? The answer is twofold: better image quality and more creative control. Armed with the top-quality RAW-editing software now available, and a RAW-enabled camera, photographers can make considered judgements about the many variables that affect the picture conversion, providing customised picture-by-picture solutions never possible in-camera.

The real advantages of enhancing your photos at the RAW stage are that these changes are made to the file at the same time as the primary image data is being interpolated to form the full colour picture. Editing after the file is processed (saved by the camera in 8 bit versions of the JPEG and TIFF format), means that you will be applying the changes to a picture with fewer tones and colours. And we all know the benefits that such high-bit editing provides.

A second bonus for dedicated RAW photographers is that actions like switching from the white balance option selected when shooting, to another choice when processing, are performed without any image loss. This is not the case once the file has been processed with the incorrect white balance setting.

Most RAW conversion programs also contain several batch processing options. These allow the user to set general parameters for a group of images and then instruct the program to process and save each file in turn automatically. This is a real time saver when you have to edit a bunch of pictures taken under the same conditions. Some software also includes the ability to shoot and adjust pictures while your camera is attached to the computer. This feature, usually referred to as 'tethered' shooting, works well for studio photography and has the advantage of bypassing the camera's memory card and saving files directly to your computer.

Pros & Cons *of Shooting Raw*

ADVANTAGES

1. You get to use the full tonal and colour range captured by the camera.
2. You can remove many of the file processing decisions from the camera to the desktop where more time and care can be taken in their execution. This includes:
- White balance changes
- Highlight, shadow and mid tone adjustments
- Applying sharpness
- Manipulating saturation
- Colour mode (sRGB, Adobe RGB etc) switches
- De-moiré improvements

3. You create and save the most comprehensive digital picture file – 'digital negative' – currently available.
4. You can make image data changes such as a switching white balance settings without image loss. This is not possible with non-RAW formats as the white balance results are fixed in the camera processed file.
5. You can 'upscale' using primary image data (straight from the sensor) rather than pre-processed information which arguably leads to better results.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Bigger file sizes on your camera's memory card.
2. Having to process the images before use back at the desktop.
3. In some cases needing specialist RAW processing software to convert files in addition to your image-editor package.
4. Working in RAW is more time consuming, especially post-capture.
5. Some knowledge is needed to make the most of the benefits of RAW.

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SHOOTING RAW

If you switch your camera to RAW, you will need to shoot differently in order to get the benefits. But it's easier than it seems

Though the basic controls such as focus, composition and exposure remain the same regardless of the capture format you choose, the inherent differences in the characteristics of JPEG and RAW mean that some changes in your shooting workflow are warranted.

CHANGING YOUR SHOOTING WORKFLOW FOR RAW

'Once I have switched my camera to RAW will there be any change in the way that I shoot?' Maybe. Most experienced photographers pride themselves on their ability to control all the functions of the camera. Often their dexterity extends beyond the traditional controls such as aperture, shutter speed and focus to 'digital only' features such as white balance, contrast and sharpness. For the best results they manipulate these features to match the camera settings with the scene.

Fujifilm S3 Pro

For instance, a landscape photographer may add contrast, boost saturation and manually adjust the white balance setting of his camera for a misty valley shot at dawn. An avid travel photographer may reduce contrast and saturation and switch to a Daylight white balance setting when confronted with the floating markets in Thailand in summer. It has long been known that such customisation is essential if you want to make the best images possible and are capturing in a JPEG or TIFF format. But as we have seen, settings such as these, though fixed in TIFF and JPEG formats, are fully adjustable when shooting RAW.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CAPTURE VARIABLES

What does this mean in our day-to-day photography? Well, if after documenting some interiors you forget to switch the white balance setting from tungsten back to daylight before starting to shoot outside, all is not lost. The white balance setting used at the time of capture is recorded with the raw file but is only applied when the picture is processed. So when you open the images in a raw converter the picture is

Enabling *RAW capture*

With most RAW-enabled cameras switching from one capture format to another is a simple matter of entering the camera set-up menu and selecting the RAW entry from the Image Quality options. This option may also be accessed via a quality toggle or switch elsewhere on the camera.

Some models also offer a choice between compressed and non-compressed versions of the file. Compressing will mean pictures will take up less space on the memory card, but the process of compression results in longer saving times. This isn't an issue unless you like to photograph action, as the extra time taken to compress the file will reduce the frames per second rate of your camera.

There are several cameras on the market that also have the ability to save both RAW and JPEG versions of the same file at the time of capture. This option can be a real time saver if you need to access your pictures quickly, but the feature is less of an advantage if you regularly perform many enhancement steps to your files as, in the end, the captured JPEG will not resemble the processed RAW file.

Below: With Raw enabled cameras, switching capture formats is usually a simple matter of navigating a couple of Set Up menu pages before selecting the new file format

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Hasselblad's latest cameras capture natively in the DNG format

previewed using the capture setting (tungsten) but you can easily select a different option (in this example, daylight). And all this happens with no resultant loss in quality. Hooray!

The same situation exists for controls such as contrast, saturation and, with some cameras, sharpness. As before, the settings made at the time of shooting will be used as a basis for initial raw previews but these can be adjusted before processing. This leads some people to believe that they no longer need to pay attention to these shooting factors, so they leave their cameras set to 'auto everything', preferring to fix any problems at the desktop. Other photographers continue to control their cameras on a shot-by-shot basis believing that an image captured with the right settings will save processing time later. Both approaches are valid and which suits you will largely be down to whether you would prefer to spend your time manipulating your camera or computer.

Proprietary and *Open RAW file formats*

At the moment there is no one standard for a RAW file format. Each manufacturer tends to have a version of RAW that is specific to their own camera range. They maintain that this approach gives them the best flexibility to take advantage of constantly changing camera technology while maintaining compatibility and image quality across their product range.

In February 2005 Adobe released a specification for a new non-proprietary file format for storing camera RAW files. The Digital Negative format, or DNG, is being put forward by the company as a candidate for a common RAW standard that both camera and software manufacturers can adopt. Most photographers believe that the new format is a step in the right direction as it brings compatibility and stability to the area along with the assurance that your raw files will be able to be opened long after your camera has gone by the wayside.

To coincide with the new format Adobe provided a free conversion utility (the Adobe DNG converter) that can convert most common raw file formats to the new default standard. Recent upgrades of both Photoshop, Photoshop Elements and Adobe Camera Raw (Adobe's own raw converter) now also mean that all programs are DNG compatible. In the past few months Leica, Hasselblad, Ricoh and Samsung have all released cameras that capture natively in the DNG format.

Get your free DNG converter here:
www.adobe.com/products/dng/main.html

RAW FILE EXTENSIONS			
CANON	.CRW	**NIKON**	.NEF
CANON	.CR2	**SIGMA**	.X3F
KODAK	.DCR	**SONY**	.SRF
FUJI	.RAF	**MINOLTA**	.MRW
OLYMPUS	.ORF	**ADOBE**	.DNG

RAW enabled *cameras*

CANON
- EOS-1D
- EOS-1Ds
- EOS-1D Mark II
- EOS-1Ds Mark II
- EOS 1D Mark II N
- EOS 5D
- EOS 10D
- EOS 20D
- EOS 20Da
- EOS D30
- EOS D60
- EOS 300D (Digital Rebel/Kiss Digital)
- EOS Rebel XT (EOS 350D/EOS Kiss Digital N)
- PowerShot 600
- PowerShot A5
- PowerShot A50
- PowerShot Pro 1
- PowerShot S30
- PowerShot S40
- PowerShot S45
- PowerShot S50
- PowerShot S60
- PowerShot S70
- PowerShot G1
- PowerShot G2
- PowerShot G3
- PowerShot G5
- PowerShot G6
- PowerShot Pro70
- PowerShot Pro90 IS

CONTAX
- N Digital

EPSON
- R-D1

FUJIFILM
- FinePix E900
- FinePix F700
- FinePix S5000 Z
- FinePix S5200/5600
- FinePix S9000/9500
- FinePix S7000 Z
- FinePix S2 Pro
- FinePix S3 Pro
- FinePix S20 Pro

HASSELBLAD
- H2D

KODAK
- DCS 14n
- DCS Pro 14nx
- DCS720x
- DCS760
- DCS Pro SLR/n
- EasyShare P850
- EasyShare P880

KONICA MINOLTA
- Alpha Sweet Digital (Japan)
- Alpha-5 Digital (China)
- DiMAGE A1
- DiMAGE A2
- DiMAGE A200
- DiMAGE 5
- DiMAGE 7
- DiMAGE 7i
- DiMAGE 7Hi
- Maxxum Dynax 5D (Europe)
- Maxxum 5D (USA)
- Maxxum 7D/ Dynax 7D

LEAF Z
- Aptus 22
- Valeo 6
- Valeo 11
- Valeo 17
- Valeo 22

LEICA
- Digital-Modul-R
- D-Lux 2
- Digilux 2

MAMIYA
- ZD

NIKON
- D1
- D1H
- D1X
- D100
- D200
- D2H
- D2Hs
- D2X
- D50
- D70
- D70s
- Coolpix 5000
- Coolpix 5400
- Coolpix 5700
- Coolpix 8400
- Coolpix 8700
- Coolpix 8800

OLYMPUS
- E-10
- E-1
- E-20
- E-500
- SP-310
- SP-350
- SP-500UZ
- EVOLT E-300
- C-5050 Zoom
- C-5060 Zoom
- C-7070 Wide Zoom
- C-8080 Wide Zoom

PANASONIC
- DMC-FZ30
- DMC-LC1
- DMC-LX1

PENTAX
- *ist D
- *ist DS
- *ist DS2
- *ist DL

RICOH
- GR Digital

SAMSUNG
- Pro 815

SIGMA
- SD9
- SD10

SONY
- DSC-R1
- DSC-F828
- DSC-V3

Nikon D200

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MANAGING YOUR RAW FILES

How to use Bridge to organise your RAW files

By replacing the file browser feature found in previous versions of Photoshop with the full feature Bridge application, Adobe changed the way picture files were handled. Bridge is not just a tool for viewing your photos, it is a key technology in managing, sorting and enhancing those files. This pivotal role is never more evident than when one is managing RAW files. Here we will look at some of the ways that you can bring order to your files using Bridge.

USING KEYWORDS

Keywords are single word descriptions of the content of image files. Most photo libraries use keywords as part of the way they locate images with specific content. The words are stored in the metadata associated with the picture. Users can allocate, edit and create new keywords (and keyword categories) using the Keywords panel in the Bridge browser and File Info palette in Photoshop.

New keywords and keyword categories (set) can be added to the Keyword panel by clicking the New Keyword Set and New Keyword buttons at the bottom of the panel. Unwanted sets or keywords can be removed by selecting first and then clicking the Deleted button. Unknown keywords imported with newly downloaded or edited pictures are stored in the panel under the Other Keywords set.

RATING AND LABELLING FILES

One of the many ways that you can organise the raw files that are displayed in the Bridge workspace is by attributing a label to the picture. In CS2 the labels option is supplied in two forms – a colour tag, called a Label; or star rating, called a Rating. Either or both label types can be applied to any picture. The label tag can then be used to sort or locate individual pictures from groups of photos.

Labels and/or ratings are attached by selecting the thumbnail(s) in the workspace and then choosing the desired label from the list under the Label menu. Keyboard shortcuts are also provided for each label option making it possible to quickly apply a label to a thumbnail or group of thumbnails. Or you can quickly add star ratings by clicking beneath the thumbnail in the workspace.

Labels can also be attached to pictures in Adobe Camera Raw and Slide Show features.

Filtered
Show All Items Ctrl+Alt+A
Show 1 or More Stars Ctrl+Alt+1
Show 2 or More Stars Ctrl+Alt+2
Show 3 or More Stars Ctrl+Alt+3
Show 4 or More Stars Ctrl+Alt+4
Show 5 Stars Ctrl+Alt+5
Show Labeled Items Only
Show Unlabeled Items Only
Show Red Label Ctrl+Alt+6
Show Yellow Label Ctrl+Alt+7
Show Green Label Ctrl+Alt+8
Show Blue Label Ctrl+Alt+9
Show Purple Label

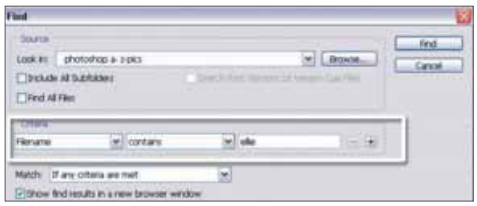
SORTING IMAGES

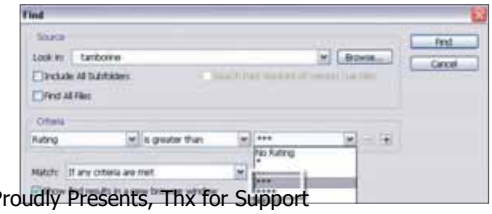
The thumbnails that appear in the Bridge workspace can be sorted and displayed in various ways.

By default the pictures are displayed in ascending order based on their filenames but Bridge provides a variety of other options in the **View > Sort** menu. Most of the settings listed here are self-explanatory. Once a sort entry is selected the workspace is automatically updated and the files reordered.

In addition, the following related features extend the control that you have over how your files are displayed:

- The Show options in the View menu,
- The Ratings and Labels features together with the filtering options contained in the drop-down menu at the top right of the Bridge workspace.





FINDING FILES

One of the great benefits of organising your pictures in the Bridge workspace is the huge range of search options that then become available to you. Selecting **Find** from the Edit menu displays the Find dialogue. Here you will be able to nominate what you want to search for, the

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criteria for the search, which folder you want to search in, what type of metadata to search and finally what to do with the pictures that match the search criteria.

To locate pictures with specific keywords, input the text into the Find feature in Bridge, setting Keywords as the location for the search.

To form a search based on a rating level select the **Edit > Find** feature and choose Rating, equal to, greater than, less than and the star value as the criteria.

METADATA PANEL

The Metadata panel in Bridge displays a variety of information about your picture. Some of this detail is created at time of capture and other parts are added as the file is edited. The metadata includes File Properties, IPTC (copyright and caption details), EXIF (camera data), GPS (navigational data from a global positioning system), Camera Raw settings and Edit History. To display the contents of each metadata category click on the side-arrow to the left of the category heading.

The data displayed in this palette, such as the copyright, description, author and caption information, can be edited here or via the **File > File Info** dialogue in Photoshop, and the range of content types displayed in the palette is controlled by the selections in the Metadata Preferences in Bridge.

METADATA TEMPLATES

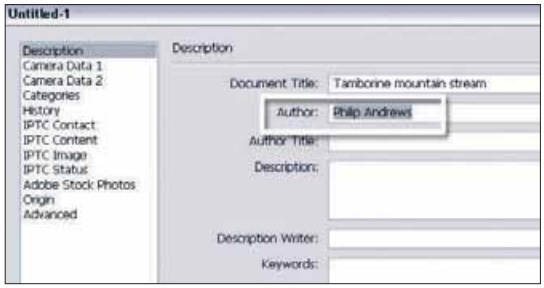
The metadata options in CS2 also allow users to create and apply groups of metadata settings to individual or groups of files. The settings are created, saved and applied as a metadata template. This really speeds up the management of the many files taken during shooting sessions, all of which need to have shoot, location, client and copyright details attached.

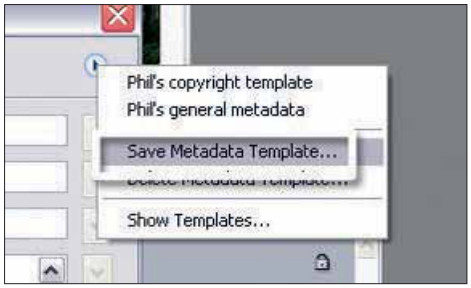
To create a template, open an example image in Photoshop and then display the File Info dialogue. Add your own details and information into the editable areas of the various data sections in the dialogue.

Next, select the **Save Metadata Template** option from the pop-up menu that appears after pressing the sideways arrow at the top right of the dialogue.

The new template will be added to this menu, allowing you to easily append existing details in Photoshop by opening the picture's File Info dialogue and selecting the template from the pop-up menu. The same template can be applied to several pictures by multi-selecting the thumbnails and then choosing the desired template from the list available in the pop-up menu in the Metadata Panel in Bridge.

The template files that you create are stored in XML format and are saved to a Metadata Templates folder in Documents and Settings\User\Application Data\Adobe\XMP for Windows machines.





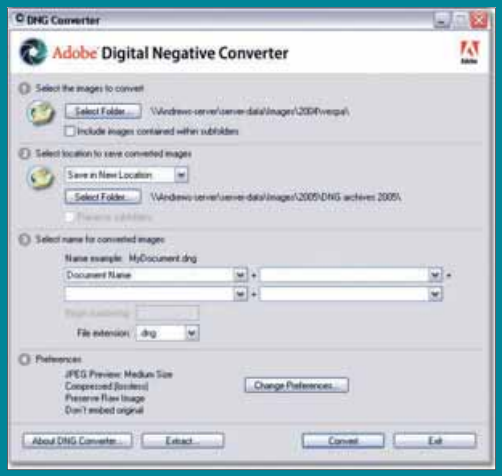
Archiving *RAW files with DNG*

By now it should be plain to see that the Raw format has many advantages for photographers, offering them greater control over the tone and colour in their files, but unfortunately there is no one standard available for the specification of how these Raw files are saved. Each camera manufacturer has their own flavour of raw file format. This can make the long-term management of such files a little tricky. What happens, for instance, if over time the specific format used by your camera falls out of favour and is no longer supported by the major editing packages? Will you be able to access your picture content in the future?

Adobe developed the DNG or Digital Negative file type to help promote a common Raw format that can be used for archival as well as editing and enhancement purposes. The company hopes that the specification will be adopted by the major manufacturers and provide a degree of compatibility and stability to the raw format area. At the moment Hasselblad, Leica, Ricoh and Samsung have all produced cameras that capture in the DNG format, with more predicted to follow.

Adobe has included DNG output options in both Photoshop CS2 and Photoshop Elements 4.0 and also provides a DNG converter that can change many proprietary camera Raw formats directly to DNG. The converter is free and can be downloaded from **www.adobe.com**.

In addition to providing a common Raw file format, the DNG specification includes a lossless compression option which will help reduce the space taken up with the thousands of images that photographers accumulate.



OPTIONS FOR SAVING TO DNG

1. ***Saving to DNG from Adobe Camera Raw***

To save your Raw files in the DNG format select this option as the file type when saving from the Adobe Camera Raw utility.

2. ***Using the DNG converter***

Multiple files can be converted to the DNG format using the free DNG Converter, available as a download from www.adobe.com. After launching the utility, select the Source and destination directories and determine the name and extension to be used with the converted files.

The last setting in the dialogue is the Change Preferences button. Click here to alter the default settings used for the conversion. The latest version of the converter offers the option to embed the original RAW file within the dng conversion. This action will cause the resultant file to be larger, as it will contain two forms of the picture, but you get an added sense of security knowing you can extract the original file later.

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20 FIRST STEPS IN RAW PROCESSING

So how do you manually enhance your RAW files? Start here...

The idea of processing your first RAW file can be a little daunting. Here, we walk you through the process with what is arguably the most widely used conversion software – Adobe Camera Raw (ACR). It comes in two slightly different flavours, one shipped with Photoshop Elements and the other with Photoshop and Bridge.

1 OPENING THE RAW FILE IN PHOTOSHOP

Once you have downloaded your RAW files from camera to computer you can start the task of processing. The RAW file is not in the full-colour RGB format we are used to, so first you need to open the picture into a conversion utility or program. Selecting **File > Open** from inside Photoshop will import the photo into the Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) utility.

3 AND OPENING THE FILE IN ELEMENTS

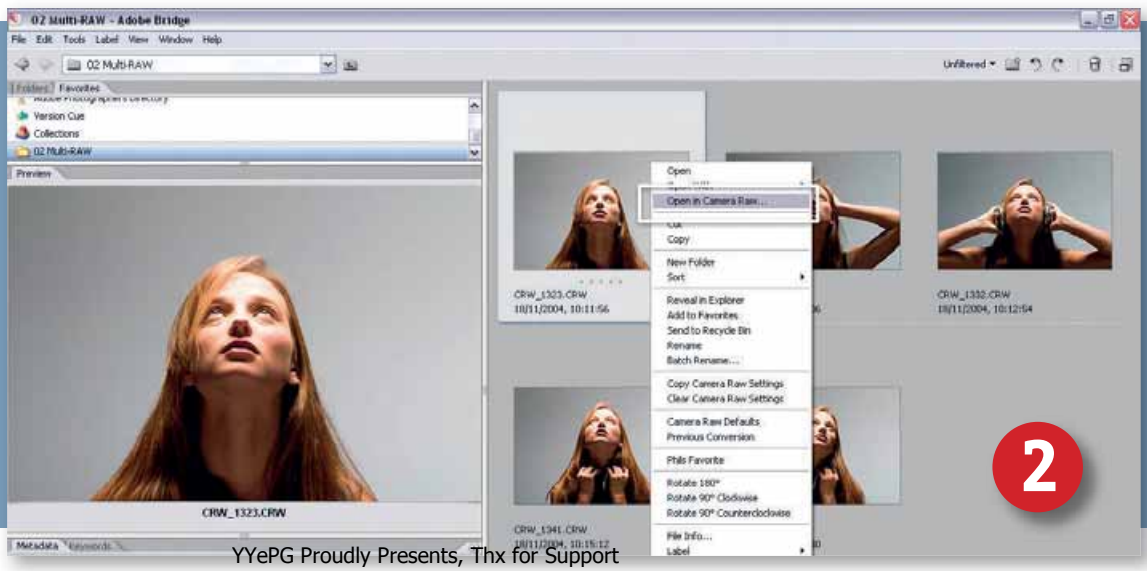
Starting in the Photo Browser or Organizer workspace in Photoshop Elements, simply right click on the thumbnail of the RAW file and select Go to Standard Edit from the pop-up menu to transfer the file to the Elements' version of ACR in the Editor workspace.

4 ROTATE RIGHT OR LEFT

Once the RAW photo is open in ACR you can rotate the image using either of the two Rotate buttons next to the preview window.

2 Using Bridge *instead*

Bridge users can open the Raw file by right clicking the file's thumbnail then choosing **Open With > Photoshop CS2**. Or import the photo directly into ACR by right clicking, then selecting Open in Camera Raw. This new CS2 only open allows for faster RAW processing as the conversions take place without the need to share computer resources with Photoshop.



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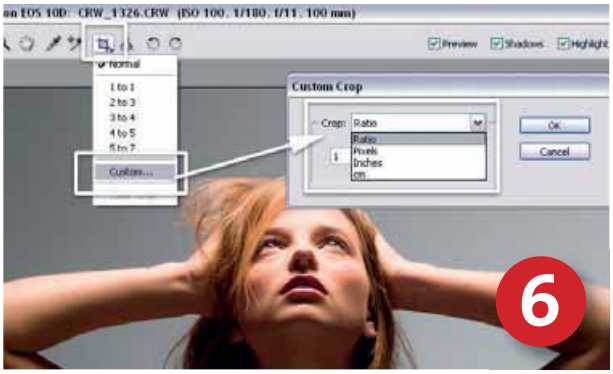
5 STRAIGHTEN HORIZONS OR VERTICALS

PhotoshopCS2 and Bridge users can fine tune the rotation of their pictures with the Straighten Tool. After selecting the tool, click and drag a straight line along an edge in the photo that is meant to be horizontal or vertical. Upon releasing the mouse button ACR creates a crop marquee around the photo. You will notice that the marquee is rotated so that the edges are parallel to the line that was drawn with the Straighten tool. When you exit ACR by saving or opening (into Photoshop) the picture, the rotated crop is applied.



6 CROPPING TO SUIT

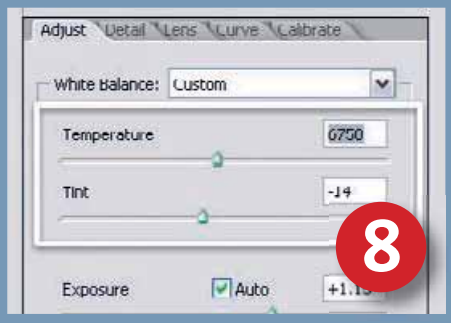
Also new to the latest release of ACR which can be found in Photoshop CS2 or Bridge is the Crop tool. Just select the tool, then click and drag to draw a marquee around the picture parts you want to retain. Use the side and corner handles on the marquee to adjust the size and shape of the selected area. The crop is applied upon exiting the ACR dialogue. Predefined crop formats are accessed by click and holding the Crop tool button. There's also a Custom option where you can design your own crops.

7 PRESET WB CHANGES

You can opt to stay with the White Balance settings used at the time of shooting ('As Shot') or select from a range of light source specific settings in the WB drop down menu of ACR. Choose your setting, or choose the Auto option to get ACR to determine a setting based on the image currently displayed.

8 Manual WB *adjustments*

Fine tune your results with the Temperature and Tint sliders (below the presets drop down menu). The Temperature settings equate to the colour of light in °Kelvin - so daylight will be 5500 and tungsten 2800. Move the slider left to make the image cooler (more blue) and to the right warmer (more yellow). The Tint slider is a green to magenta scale.



9 WHITE BALANCE TOOL

Another quick way to balance the light in your picture is to choose the White Balance tool and then click onto a part of the picture that is meant to be neutral grey or white. ACR will set the Temperature and Tint sliders so that this picture part becomes a neutral grey and in the process the rest of the image will be balanced. When selecting lighter tones ensure the area contains detail and is not a blown or specular highlight.

10 SETTING THE WHITE AREAS

Adjust the brightness with the Exposure slider. The settings are in F-stop increments; a + 1.00 setting is equivalent to increasing exposure by 1 f-stop. Use this slider to peg or set the white tones. Your aim is to lighten the highlights without clipping (converting the pixels to pure white) them. To do this, hold down Alt/Option while moving the slider. This previews the photo with the pixels being clipped against a black background. Move the slider back and forth until no clipped pixels appear but the highlights are as white as possible.

»

Images courtesy of Adobe

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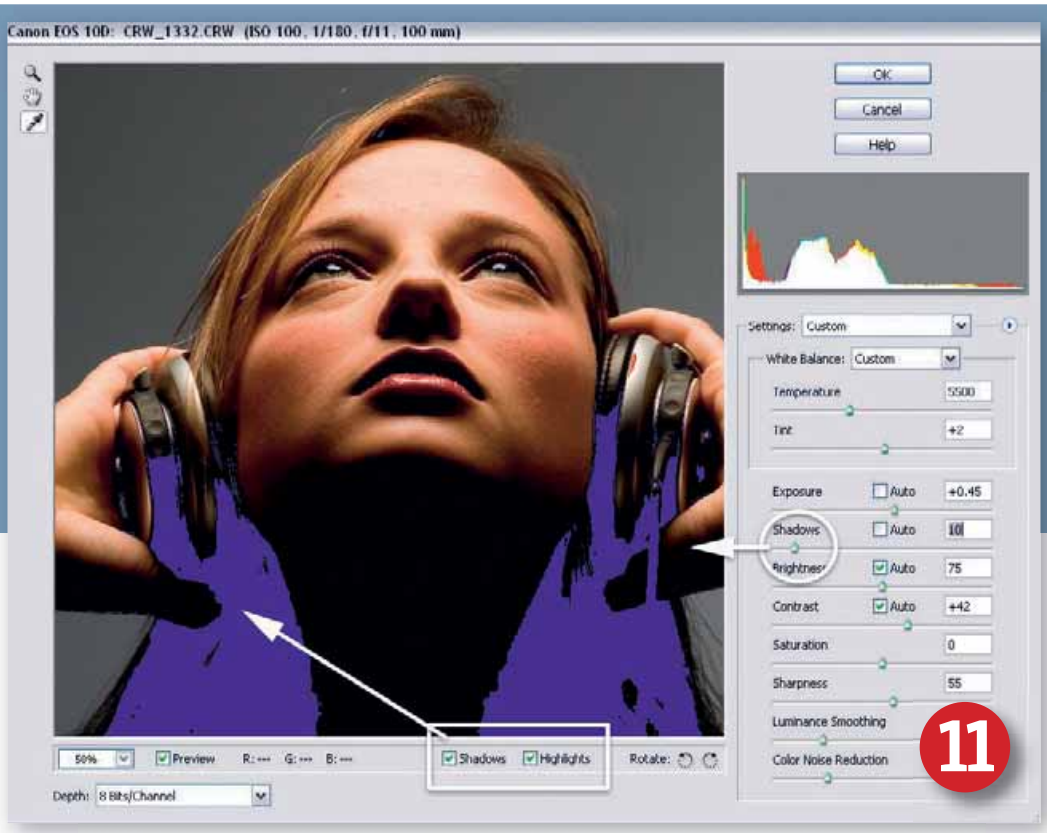
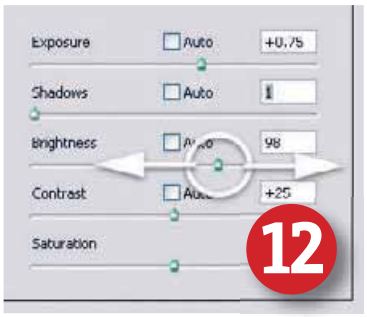
11 Adjusting the shadows

The Shadows slider adusts the shadow areas of the image. Again the aim is to darken these tones but not to convert (or clip) delicate details to pure black. As with the Exposure slider, the Alt/Option key can be pressed while making Shadows adjustments to preview the pixels being clipped. Or use the Shadow and Highlights Clipping Warning features to provide instant clipping feedback on the preview image.



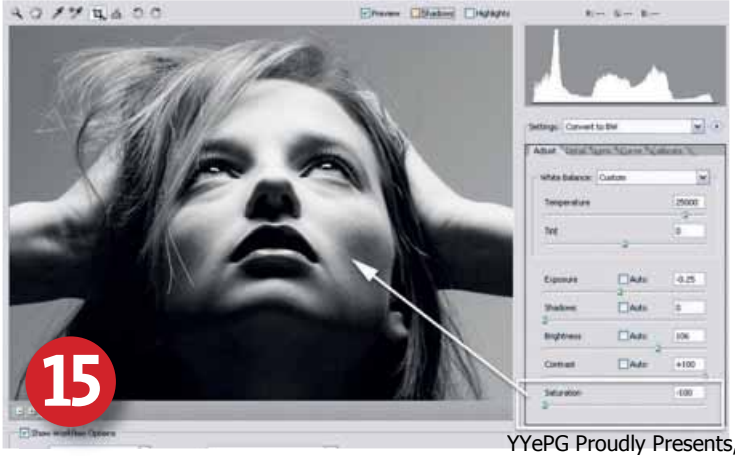


12 BRIGHTNESS CHANGES

The Brightness slider makes major changes in the midtone areas and smaller jumps in the highlights. In so doing this slider is less likely to clip the highlights (or shadows). This is why it is important to set white and black points first with the Exposure and Shadows sliders before fine tuning with the Brightness control.

13 INCREASING/ DECREASING CONTRAST

The Contrast slider concentrates on the midtones in the photo. Contrast changes are best applied after setting the white and black points of the image with the Exposure and Shadows sliders.



14 TO SHARPEN OR NOT TO SHARPEN

Sharpening should be applied as the very last step in the editing process and the settings used need to match the type of output the photo is destined for. This means images that are not going to be edited after RAW conversion should be sharpened within ACR, but pictures that are going to be enhanced further should be sharpened later using the specialist filters in Photoshop and Elements. The sharpening control in ACR is based on the Unsharp Mask filter and provides an easy to use single slider sharpening option. A setting of 0 leaves the image unsharpened and higher values increase the sharpening effect based on Radius and Threshold values that ACR automatically calculates via the camera model, ISO and exposure compensation metadata settings.

15 SATURATION CONTROL

The Saturation slider adjusts the vibrancy of the colours. Moving the slider to the right increases saturation, with a value of +100 being a doubling of the colour strength found at a setting of 0. Reduce saturation by moving the slider to the left, with a value of -100 producing a monochrome image.

NOTE: In Photoshop or Bridge's version of ACR the Sharpness, Luminance Smoothing and Color Noise Reduction sliders are located under the Detail tab.

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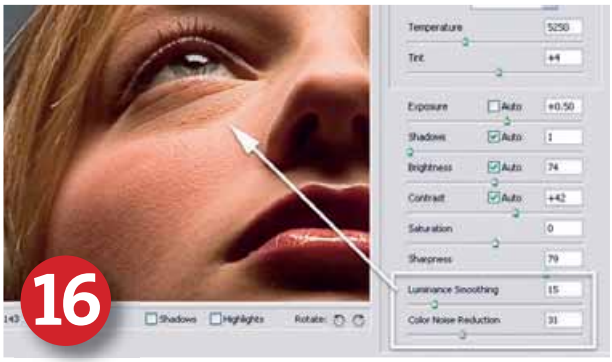


16 REDUCING NOISE

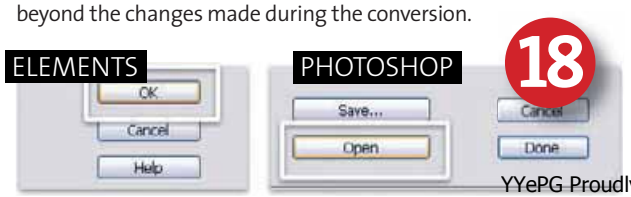
ACR contains two noise-reduction controls. The Luminance Smoothing slider reduces the appearance of greyscale noise – useful for improving images that appear grainy. The second type of noise is the random coloured pixels that typically appear in photos taken with a high ISO setting or a long shutter speed. This is referred to as Chroma noise and is reduced using the Color Noise Reduction slider in ACR. The noise reduction effect of both features is increased as the sliders are moved to the right. When using these tools, zoom in to the image (at least 100%) and check the results of your settings in important areas of details.

17 OUTPUT OPTIONS

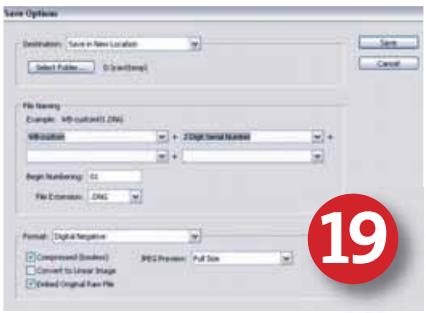
The section below the main preview window in ACR contains the output options settings. Here you can adjust the colour depth (8 or 16 bits per channel), the color space (ICC profile), the image size (maintain capture dimensions for the picture or size up or down) and the image resolution (pixels per inch or pixels per centimetre). Note: The Photoshop Elements version of ACR only contains the Colour Depth output option.

18 OPENING IN PHOTOSHOP OR ELEMENTS

The last step is to apply the changes. This can be done in a variety of ways. The most basic option is to process the RAW file according to the settings selected, then open the picture into the editing workspace of Photoshop or Elements. Elements users simply select the OK button and Photoshop aficionados click the Open button. Select this route if you intend to edit the image beyond the changes made during the conversion.



19 SAVING THE PROCESSED RAW FILE



Photoshop users can save converted raw files from inside the ACR dialogue via the Save button. This action opens the Save Options dialogue which contains settings for inputting filenames, choosing file types and extensions as well as file type specific characteristics such as compression. Opt for this approach for fast processing of multiple files without the need to open them in Photoshop. The same functionality is not available for Elements users. Instead they will need to open (click the OK button) the converted file in the editor workspace and then select **File > Save As**.

20 APPLYING THE RAW CONVERSION SETTINGS

Both versions of ACR let you apply the current settings to the RAW photo without opening the picture. In Elements this is done by Alt-clicking the OK button. In Photoshop, just click Done. And no changes are made to the underlying pixels. When next the file is opened, the applied settings will show up in the ACR dialogue ready for changing.

Adobe Camera Raw *dialogue*

1. Preview area 2. White Balance settings 3. Tonal controls 4. Auto checkboxes for tonal control 5. Saturation, 6. Sharpness and noise options 7. Zoom tool 8. Hand tool 9. White Balance tool 10. Rotate buttons 11. Shadow and Highlights Clipping Warnings 12. Preview checkbox 13. Colour Histogram 14. RGB values readout 15. Output options

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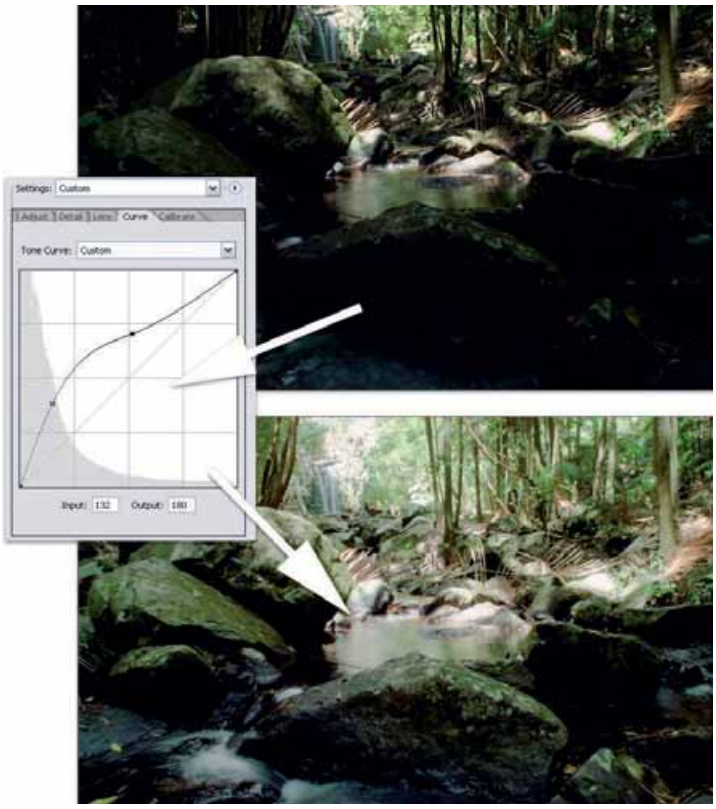
RAW PROCESSING – BEYOND THE BASICS

Want to go further? Follow these pro techniques to speed workflow without sacrificing quality



So far we have taken a camera file in a RAW format and, using the features of Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) processed the image, enhancing colour, tone and sharpness, next let's now look at some more specialised techniques that the professionals are using daily to speed up their workflow while maintaining the ultimate image quality.

CURVES PROVIDE ADVANCED TONAL CONTROL

AVAILABLE IN: ACR FOR PHOTOSHOP/BRIDGE

Experienced photographers who want a little finer control over the tones in their pictures often use the Curves feature in Photoshop. It contains a graph-based workspace with a light grey histogram preview of the picture's tones and a straight line that represents the relationship between input values and output tones. By manipulating the line in the curves dialogue the user can finely tune the appearance of different tones in the photo without unduly affecting other areas.

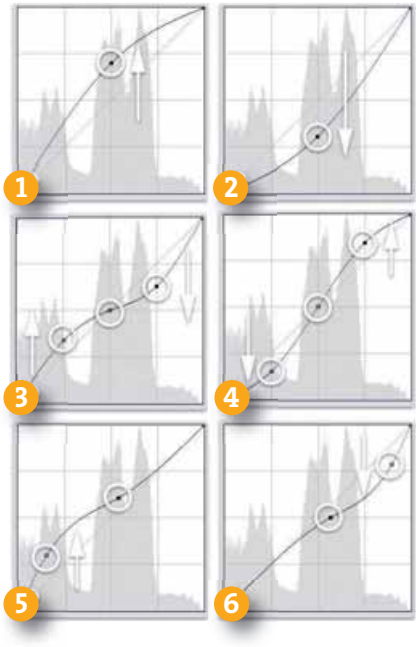
Several Raw converters such as Adobe Camera Raw (Photoshop and Bridge) now contain curves features so that such fine-tuning steps can be applied to Raw files just as easily as standard PSD, JPEG or TIFF images. The feature is located under the Curve tab in the Settings area of the ACR dialogue. The user can select from three curve presets found in the Tone Curve drop down menu or create their own 'custom' settings. Do this by clicking to place a control point on the curve and then click-dragging the point to a new position to alter the tones in this part of the image.

Left: The familiar Curves feature found in Photoshop is now also available in Adobe Camera Raw

Below: Quick start curves summary

CURVES QUICK TIPS

1	To lighten midtones but no change to highlight and shadow areas	Click and drag a middle control point upwards
2	To darken midtones but no change to highlight and shadow areas	Click and drag a middle control point downwards
3	To decrease contrast	Click to add a control point to the middle and then click and drag a shadow control point upwards and a highlight point downwards
4	To increase contrast	Click to add a control point to the middle and then click and drag a shadow control point downwards and a highlight point upwards
5	To lighten shadows only	Click to add a control point in the middle and then click and drag a shadow point upwards. Now adjust the middle point until the highlight area of the line is almost straight again.
6	To darken highlights only	Click to add a control point in the middle and then click and drag a highlight point downwards. Now adjust the middle point until the shadow area of the line is almost straight again.



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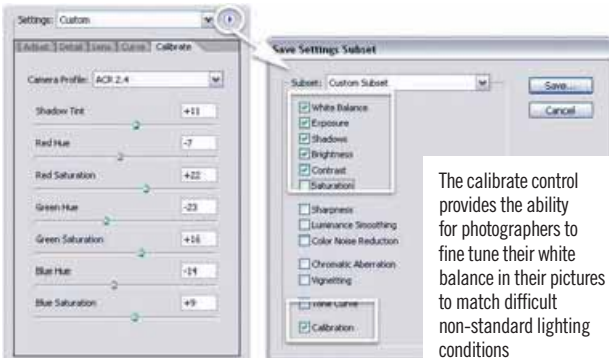
COLOUR FINE TUNING WITH CALIBRATE

As well as the white balance presets and Temperature and Tint sliders, Adobe Camera Raw also contains a set of colour specific controls grouped under the Calibrate tab in the Settings section of the dialogue. Though daunting to start with, the options here provide an amazing amount of control and are used by many pros to 'profile' the way that the colour from their cameras is interpreted by the raw converter. This is particularly useful for building a profile for neutralising the casts in images shot under mixed artificial lighting conditions.

The process involves photographing a Macbeth Color Checker reference board under the lighting conditions that are typical for the scene. The RAW file is then opened into Adobe Camera Raw and the colour and tones of the captured file is adjusted to match the 'true' values of the patches. The RGB values that each patch should be (in a variety of colour spaces) can be obtained from Bruce Lindbloom's great website (www.brucelindbloom.com). These synthetic values will act as a reference when making your adjustments.

Start by setting a basic white balance by clicking onto the light grey patch of the Color Checker with ACR's White Balance tool. Next use the Exposure and Shadow sliders to adjust the contrast of the image. Use the Color Sampler tool to check the patch values in the Raw preview against those synthetic values found on Lindbloom's site.

Next switch to the Calibrate tab and use the sliders to start to adjust the colour of the test patches. Again your aim is to match as closely as possible the captured (sampled from the preview) values with the synthetic values of the colour checker. Moving one slider will not only affect its colour but also the value of the other two. Matching the two values is a process of adjust, check and then adjust again but once completed the final colour settings can be saved as a new settings subset and applied to all photos taken under the same lighting conditions.



The calibrate control provides the ability for photographers to fine tune their white balance in their pictures to match difficult non-standard lighting conditions

Below: The table is laid out in the same 6 x 4 array as the ColorChecker chart, and within each cell, the color components are shown in red, green, blue order from top to bottom. Data courtesy of www.brucelindbloom.com

SYNTHETIC RGB VALUES FOR THE MACBETH COLOR CHECKER PATCHES (ADOBE RGB)					
106 81 67	182 149 130	103 122 154	95 108 69	129 128 174	133 189 170
194 121 48	79 91 162	170 85 97	84 62 105	167 186 73	213 162 57
54 62 149	101 148 76	152 48 58	228 199 55	164 83 144	63 134 163
242 241 236	200 200 199	159 160 159	122 121 120	84 84 84	53 53 53

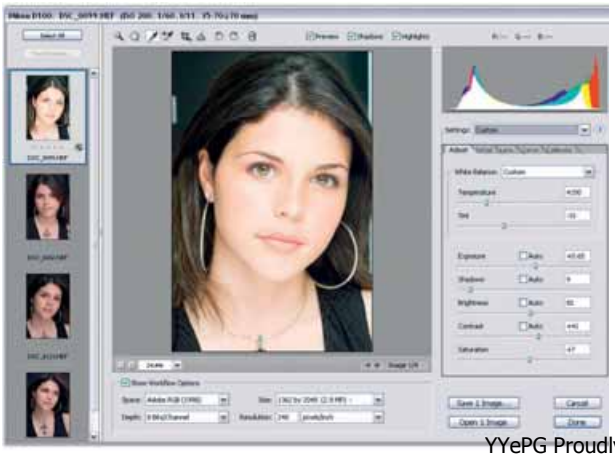
MULTI IMAGE RAW PROCESSING

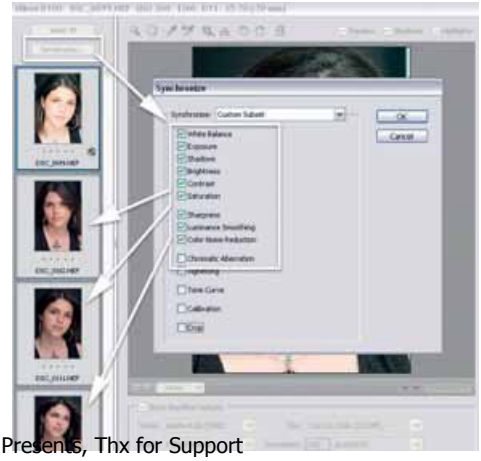
The version of Adobe Camera Raw in Photoshop CS2 includes many new features including the ability to open and process multiple raw files at the same time. Previous versions of the utility as well as the version that ships with Photoshop Elements are only able to work on one file at a time.

To process several files at once, multi-select their thumbnails in the Bridge workspace and then select **File > Open with Camera Raw** (Alt/Option R). The first selected file is previewed in the ACR workspace and highlighted in the slide table section (left) of the dialogue. The rest of the pictures are also displayed here in thumbnail form.

To process the files simply click on each thumbnail in turn, making your enhancements using the slider controls and then clicking Save or Done to apply the changes. For images shot at the same time under the same lighting conditions, the enhancement process is even quicker. Start by adjusting the settings for the first photo in the series. Next choose the Select All button at the top left of the dialogue (you can also multi-select specific thumbnails) and then click Sychronize. ACR then displays the Synchronize dialogue where you can select the specific enhancements that you want to apply to all selected images. Click OK to exit the dialogue and apply the changes to the thumbnails. Press the Save or Done buttons to apply the changes to the photos.

And remember that the enhancements have not been applied permanently – you can always reopen the raw file and change the settings or even remove the enhancements all together.





Far Left: The version of ACR that ships with Photoshop CS2 can process multiple Raw files at the same time. Multi-selected files are displayed as thumbnails to the left of the main preview area

Left: The Synchronize option allows the user to apply the settings created for one file to a selection of other raw photos

All pics courtesy of Philip Andrews

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ADOBE LIGHTROOM

The beta of Lightroom, Adobe's new streamlined raw workflow product, is an exciting prospect. Here's a walkthrough of the key features

Okay, so it's not the norm for us to give space to products that are still in the beta stage of production. After all, the feature set and interface design can change, and probably will, before the program is finally released. But Adobe's new raw workflow product is different. Why?

Well first, it's a public beta, so you have the chance to play with this new technology and even contribute to its development. LightRoom also provides us with a unique vision of raw file processing, manipulation and management. The future is being forged now and we want you to know about it.

WHAT IS LIGHTROOM?

Photoshop is a complex beast. It's not that the individual features are confusing in themselves (okay, some bits are!), it's when you start to layer and merge them together. First time users can be daunted by the prospect of trying even the most basic tasks.

LightRoom on the other hand, is a deceptively simple product. It uses two core technologies: a relational database which keeps

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your image details, settings and metadata and provides searching/cataloguing options – and the Adobe Camera Raw engine, which supplies the image enhancement tools.

Even at this beta stage it feels like a well designed, streamlined photographer's work tool. Adobe's engineers have distilled the core power and features of both the workflow and raw conversion elements of Photoshop and packaged them into a new interface. There are features like the Tone Curve that are pure Photoshop, but even such familiar controls have been given a makeover, providing customisation options way beyond what is currently available. The addition of new controls like Split Toning and HSL Color Tuning make this an exciting addition to Adobe's line up.

And did I mention that these enhancement tools never change the original pixels captured? The whole workflow is lossless (ie non-destructive). Image enhancement and conversion settings are stored separately to the original image data and are then used to generate screen previews, print output and the screen-based slideshows of the files.

THE WORKSPACE

Lightroom comprises four workflow modules – Library, Develop, Slideshow and Print – and the precise layout of the interface changes according to which module is selected. The workspace can, however, be divided into several key sections. These are:

1 The left panel's role changes depending on which module or mode you are in. The example screen shot shows LightRoom in the Library mode which is primarily designed for managing your photos and organising your shoots. So here you will see that this section of the screen houses Search, Collection, View and Library options. If you switch to the Develop, Slideshow or Print modules, the contents changes to display preset and saved options settings.

6 The menu bar provides access to standard menu commands but, like most screen elements in the LightRoom interface, this too can be hidden from view and restored when needed.

5 The module menu appears at the top of the screen and not only lists the options available but also highlights the one currently selected. At the moment there are four modules included in LightRoom (Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print) but, given the modular nature of the program, don't be surprised if other options become available in the future.

2 The filmstrip area is located at the bottom of the screen and displays all the images from the currently selected Library. Individual pictures or groups of images can be selected from the filmstrip in any module.

3 In the default setting for the Library module, the main workspace displays an enlarged preview of the picture selected in the filmstrip. A single mouse click on the image zooms the picture to and fro a 1:1 magnification setting. Images can be viewed in Grid (like a sorting area on a slide box), Loupe (enlarged to 1:1) or Compare (side by side comparisons of multiple photos) modes while in the library mode. In Slideshow and Print modes the workspace displays a preview of the images as they will appear on screen or on a printed page.

4 The right hand panel holds the settings controls available for the current module. In Library mode it displays some quick adjustment options, in the Develop module the panel contains the complete set of enhancement controls and in the Slideshow and Print modules it houses layout and output settings.

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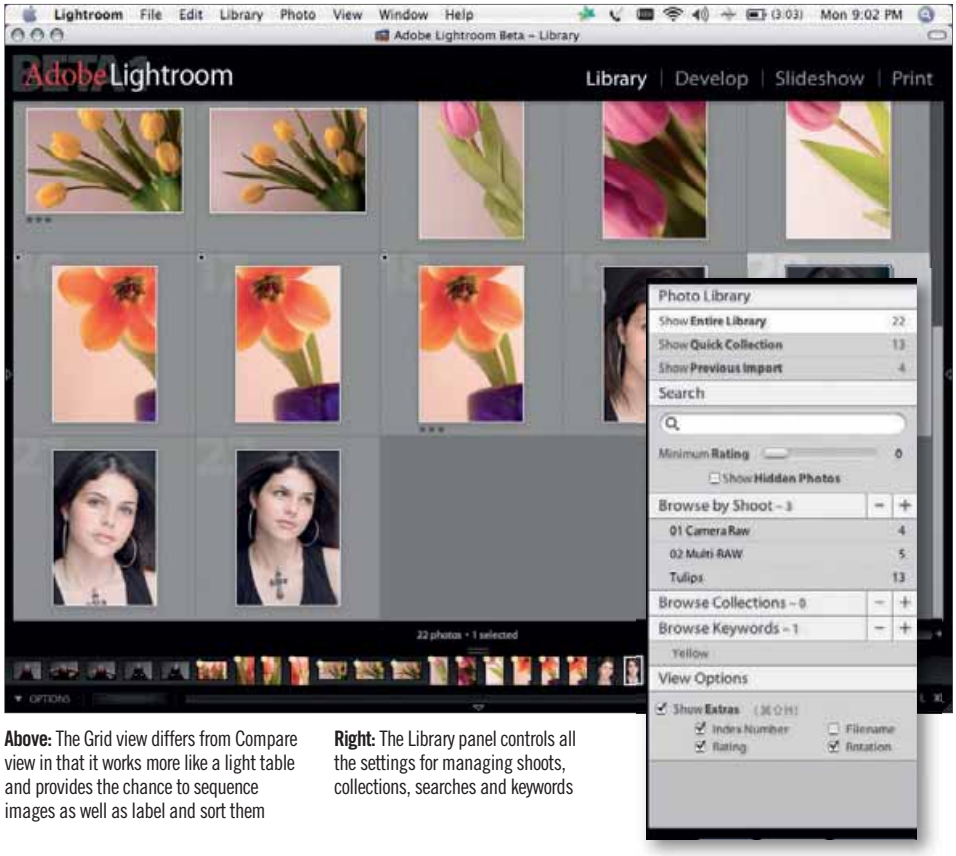


Above: The Grid view differs from Compare view in that it works more like a light table and provides the chance to sequence images as well as label and sort them

Right: The Library panel controls all the settings for managing shoots, collections, searches and keywords

LIBRARY

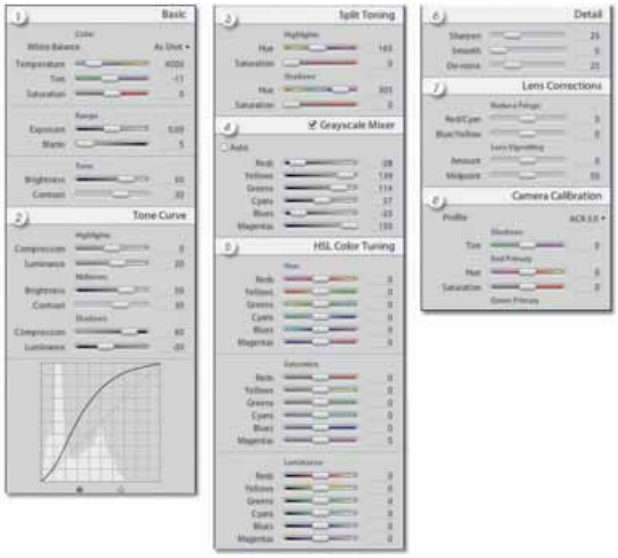
All image management starts with the Library module. Here you import your photos, arrange them in collections, add keywords, search your library or browse individual shoots. All this activity is handled with the options in the left hand panel while in the workspace you can view your images in magnified Loupe mode, side by side Compare mode or Grid mode. One thing that you will notice immediately is the speed with which you can edit, rate and label your pictures. Unlike other browser products, LightRoom is not as tied down to the operating system file structure as is normally the case. When you import photos from a shoot, the program generates its own organisational structure (relational database) that not only maintains the management choices you make (rating, adding metadata etc) but also holds the raw processing settings you choose. Though exposure, brightness and contrast can be quickly adjusted here using the settings in the Quick Develop section the majority of enhancement changes are made in the next part of the process.

DEVELOP

The Develop module is the next step in the Lightroom workflow and is central to all enhancement changes that are applied to your photos. Just like when you are working in the Adobe Camera Raw dialogue, the enhancement settings and controls are grouped in a panel on the right of the window and a preview of the interpolated raw file is also included. New for Lightroom is a Presets Browser panel (below right) that houses ready-made conversion settings as well as those created and saved by the user. The speed with which these settings can be applied and the preview image updated is really impressive.

Develop contains familiar ACR controls such as White Balance, Exposure, shadows (now called Blacks), Brightness, Contrast, Detail (sharpness and noise), Lens Correction (fringing and vignetting) and Camera Calibration. These controls work in a similar fashion to their counterparts in ACR but features such as the tone curve have gained a Lightroom makeover. Now it is possible not only to manipulate the shape of the curve manually (click and drag) but also make these adjustments via new slider controls. With these you can set highlight and shadow clip points, adjust contrast and brightness and also compress or stretch specific ranges of tones in the image. This new Compression slider provides real power for those photographers who like to push the tones around in their images.

In addition to reworking features like the tone curve, Develop also contains brand new controls. We now have a dedicated greyscale conversion tool called the Greyscale Mixer, a Hue Saturation and Lightness control, and a great Split Toning feature that makes creating cool cross-processing effects a breeze.



ABOVE Right: The enhancement controls in the Develop module of Lightroom include existing Adobe Camera Raw controls, and brand new features: 1) Controls for Basic enhancement changes. 2) Improved Tone Curve feature. 3) New Split Toning sliders are great for cross-processing effects. 4) Borrowing from the Channel Mixer in Photoshop you can make great greyscale conversions with this new feature. 5) HSL Color Tuning is a brand new colour feature that is designed for fine tuning the hues in your photos. 6) Sharpen and noise reduction controls. 7) Lens correction settings for both vignetting and fringing control. 8) Camera Calibration feature that is used for fine tuning the colour balance.

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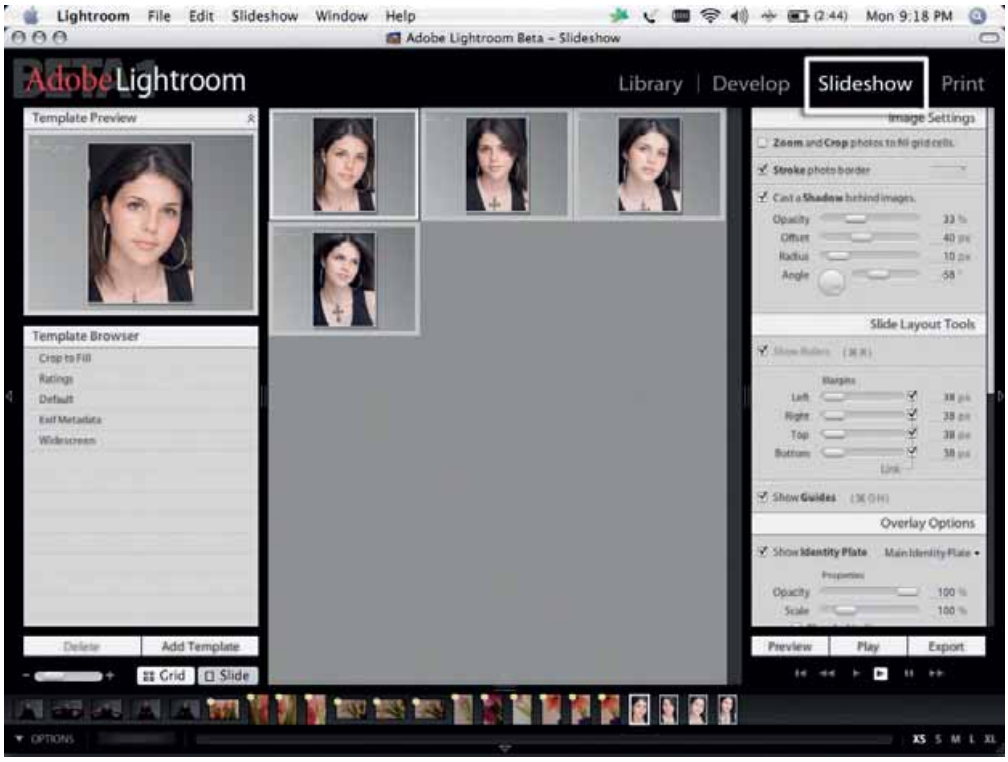


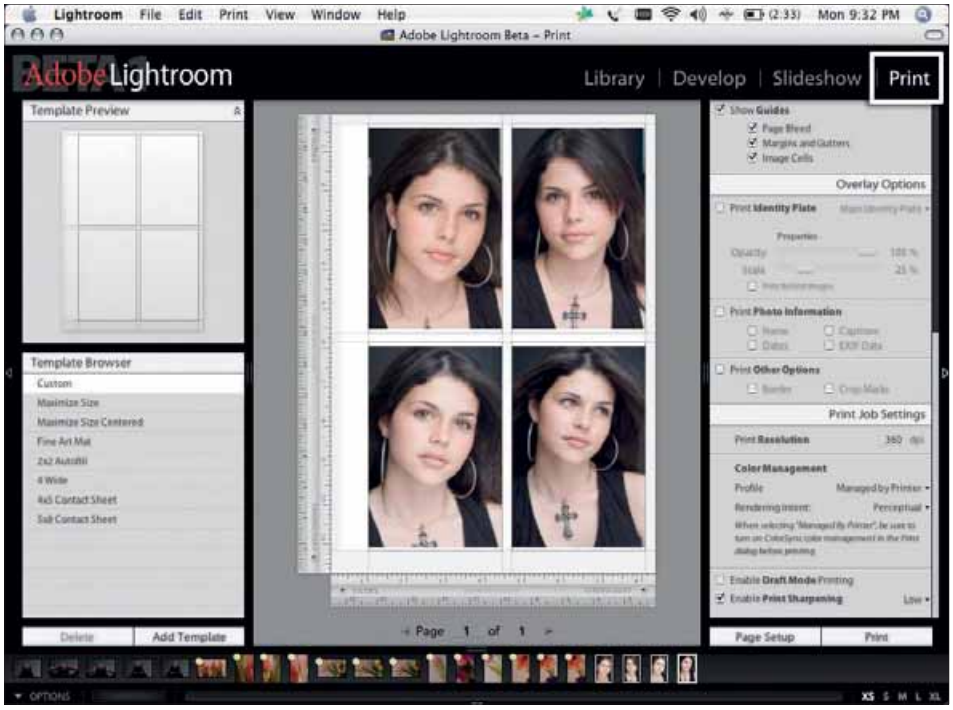
SLIDESHOW

If you like, you can output your photos as a presentation. The presentation options can be found in the Slideshow module where you can layout and sequence a group of images then produce them as a PDF presentation, HTML or Flash website. When selecting the Slideshow module the contents of the right panel change to options that alter the settings for your presentation. Here you can adjust border and shadow options as well as the layout and any overlay used for each slide. The production can be previewed by pressing one of the VCR type controls or Play and Preview buttons at the bottom of the panel. Output the slideshow in one of the three formats with the Export command.

Left: The Slideshow module provides creative presentation options that can be output in PDF, HTML or even Flash formats

PRINT

If you ever wondered if anybody in Adobe listens to the suggestions of its users, then the Lightroom Print module is a confirmation that they do. Here in the one dialogue are all the controls that you need to output contact sheets, print packages as well as individual prints. The right panel contains print and layout settings. The middle of the screen contains a preview of the photos as they will appear on the printed page; and on the left you have a range of template presets and the ability to save your own print layouts.



Right: The Print module is the centre of all hardcopy output including the production of contact sheets and individual prints

All images courtesy of Philip Andrews

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Even though Lightroom is in a beta stage you can get a good indication of how the final production program will look, feel and, more importantly, function. Adobe says that a new beta is being released every six weeks or so, and as we go to press I notice that beta 2 has just been announced. And yes, Adobe is listening to the comments made on the forum. This new beta contains a Crop tool and is in a Universal Binary format which means that it can run on the new Intel-based Macintoshes.

With promises of more refinement as the beta program progresses, and a Windows version to follow quickly, Lightroom is a sign of the way that RAW processing will be handled in the future.

How to get involved:

Want to have a say about the development of Lightroom? Well, get your skates on and go to **labs.macromedia.com/technologies/lightroom/** (no www) download the beta and start to play. Jump onto the forums and add your own comments to the hundreds of other photographers who are getting excited about the prospect of a complete raw workflow package.

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RAW EDITOR ROUND-UP

Adobe Lightroom is just the latest entry to the RAW processing arena. Here's a selection of other RAW editing programs currently available

1 ADOBE CAMERA RAW

Web: *www.adobe.com*
Cost: *included in Photoshop and Photoshop Elements*
Trial download available: *yes as part of download trials of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements*

Designed as a plug-in for both Photoshop, Bridge and Elements, the Adobe RAW converter starts when you open a RAW file from inside either program. The big plus with this editor is that it's fast, easy to use, has a great preview, is well laid out and works from inside the king of digital imaging software. No need to process the RAW file in one program and then open the processed file in Photoshop to finish the editing job. The transition between RAW conversion program and Photoshop is smooth and effortless and in the latest version many of the enhancement tasks can be applied to the file without having to pass it to the main editing space.

2 RAW SHOOTER

Web: *www.pixmantec.com*
Cost: *Raw Shooter Essentials 2005 – Free*
Raw Shooter Premium 2006 – US$99.00
Trial download available: *yes*

Pixmantec Raw Shooter is shipped in two different Windows versions: a free light edition called Essentials 2005 (a winner in the WDC Awards) and a beefier professional release, Premium 2006. The core technology between them is the same but the free version has a smaller enhancement and editing feature set.

Raw Shooter is as much a RAW workflow tool as a conversion utility. Users can download, browse (with great speed), edit, correct and convert individual as well as batches of RAW files. A recent addition is a new Colour Engine module, which acts as a plug-in for the Premium edition and helps to provide better colour accuracy.

Proprietary *RAW software (usually supplied with the camera)*

NIKON PICTURE PROJECT

Nikon's Picture Project is supplied with all of its DSLRs and RAW-enabled bridge cameras. The software allows you to browse RAW files and save as TIFF and JPEG, but does not allow you to make any adjustments.

NIKON CAPTURE EDITOR

Yo may have to pay a premium for Nikon Capture, but the advantage over Picture Project is immense: you can change the tones, White Balance and more, as well as control the camera remotely from the desktop.

CANON PHOTO PROFESSIONAL

Found on the Canon Solutions disk, Photo Pro allows you to view and adjust the CRW or CR2 files produced by the Canon RAW-enabled cameras. Like most of the proprietary software, the latest version is backwards compatible.

OLYMPUS MASTER

As a free suite the Olympus Master software is pretty darn good value for money. RAW images can be browsed, adjusted, and saved to other formats quickly and easily. Extra money is needed to upgrade to Olympus Studio.

PENTAX PHOTO LABORATORY

Pentax Photo Lab is similar to the other software mentioned, with the options to browse, adjust and alter the image. Images can then be converted to TIFF and JPEG.

FUJIFILM HYPER UTILITY

As well as allowing the corrections and adjustments to Fujifilm .RAF files, Hyper Utility also allows browsing of images and, crucially, adjustments of the S3 Pro's images' dynamic range via a slider in the conrol panel. The unique design of the sensor allows precise control of highlight and shadow detail.

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3 BIBBLE AND BIBBLELITE

Web: *www.bibblelabs.com*
Cost: *US$129.00 (pro) $69.00 (lite)*
Trial download available: *yes*

Bibble provides a quick and easy way to convert and enhance RAW files. It supports Nikon, Fuji, Olympus, Kodak and Canon cameras. It can be used in standalone mode or as a plug-in for Photoshop, allowing RAW files to be opened from the program, processed via Bibble and then loaded back into Photoshop.

Image adjustments include One click White balance, advanced highlight recovery, RGB Color balance, HSV Balance, Hi-quality image size re-sampling. Image processing filters include: Blur, Sharpen, Median Cut and Unsharp mask.

Bibble comes in Pro and Lite versions and editions that are suitable for Windows, Macintosh and Linux platforms.

4 BREEZE BROWSER PRO

Web: *www.breezesys.com*
Cost: *US$69.95*
Trial download available: *yes*

BreezeBrowser has long been associated with Canon DSLR cameras, but the software has evolved to support a wide variety of Nikon, Olympus, Konica Minolta and Pentax cameras as well. UK-based software author, Chris Breeze, is also renowned for the level of personal support provided for it.

One of the obvious differences to the other packages is that it can be used as an image-management resource, with fast thumbnailing and previews, not just RAW files, but JPEGs and other image file formats. It is also available bundled with Downloader Pro, which lets you copy files from your camera using personalised naming and storage preferences.

5 SHARPRAW FOR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Web: *www.logicaldesigns.com/Imaging1.htm.com*
Cost: *US$99.00*
Trial download available: *yes*

This is the only editing software in the group that uses Neutral Network technology in the interpolation of RAW files to create pictures with a balance between high resolution and low noise. The program provides no less than three other methods of interpolation and an option to view the unprocessed Bayer pattern as well. SharpRaw can be used with Canon, Nikon, Minolta, Kodak, Fuji, Sigma, Sony, Pentax, Contax and Olympus generated files.

The program features three different methods for auto white balancing, built-in controls for lens distortion and colour balance correction, image resizing with perspective control levels and unsharp mask filter.

6 CAPTURE ONE SEE

Web: *www.phaseone.com*
Cost: *US$99.00 for the Limited Edition version, US$499.00 for Pro edition*
Trial download available: *yes*

With support for a range of cameras including the ability to drive the famed Phase One digital camera backs, this software is an industry strength editor from a company who has been at the forefront of RAW capture for years. The software provides clean and sharp results. The program can be used with Canon, Pentax, Nikon, Fuji, Olympus, Leica and Epson cameras.

The software allows a range of image adjustments such as grey balance, levels/curves, contrast, crop, sizing, and unsharp masking to be carried out in one process with instant feedback on the screen. For the colour-conscious photographer the Color Editor option allows you to adjust existing colour profiles directly.

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OUTPUTTING RAW FILES

What output options do Raw users have at their disposal?

Until recently the RAW files were viewed as a capture-only format, with the first step in any workflow being the conversion of the picture to another file type so that editing, enhancing and output tasks could be performed. I say recently because with the release of products such as Lightroom from Adobe, it is no longer necessary to change file formats to move your pictures further through the production workflow.

Even Bridge is sufficiently RAW enabled to allow you to produce contact sheets, PDF presentations, Picture Packages and Web Galleries all from RAW originals. Yes, the files are converted as part of the production process for these outcomes, but I can live with this if it means that my precious pics stay as RAW for more of the production workflow.

So let's look at some of the output options that are available for the RAW photographer who wants to maintain his picture's RAW status for longer.

OUTPUT TO SCREEN

INSTANT SLIDESHOWS

Slideshow is one of the new view modes available in the Bridge workspace.

Selecting this option creates an automatic self-running slideshow containing the images in the current workspace or those multi-selected before choosing the feature. Pressing the H key displays a list of commands that can be used to navigate, edit and adjust the slideshow.

This feature provides a great way to quickly edit and label images that you have just photographed. Multi-select the photos within the Bridge workspace and then click **Ctrl/ Command L** to switch to Slideshow view. As each of the photographs are being displayed you can Rate the pictures by clicking the number keys 1 – 5 or Label them by pressing 6 – 9. Some photographers use this approach with their clients, interactively rating the pictures based on the client's feedback to the slide show.

PORTABLE SLIDESHOWS

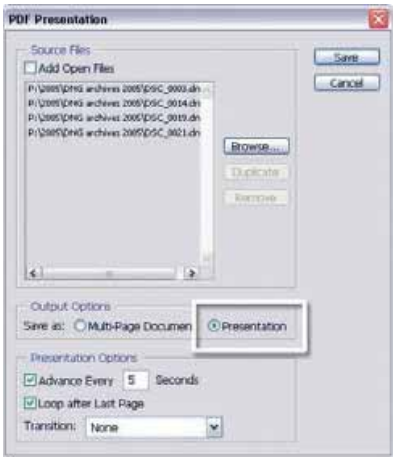
If you need to send a series of photos to someone you can create a portable slideshow that Adobe calls a PDF Presentation. This self-running slideshow is saved in the PDF or Adobe Acrobat format and can be emailed or saved to a CD.

As before, start the process by multi-selecting the photos to be included in the presentation from the thumbnails inside the Bridge workspace. Next select the PDF Presentation option from those listed in the **Tools > Photoshop** menu. Photoshop opens and the PDF Presentation dialogue is then displayed. Here you can add to the files selected or remove them from the list. Next, select the Presentation option at the bottom of the dialogue and adjust the Advance and Transition settings before clicking the Save button.

Nominate a name and folder for the presentation before clicking Save for a second time. Choose the Screen Res setting from the PDF Presets dialogue displayed, then press **Save PDF**. Photoshop now does its magic opening, converting sizing and saving the pictures in the presentation format. The final result can be viewed in Adobe's free Acrobat Reader.

Below and Above: By clicking H you can display the list of shortcut keys used to control the slide show or add labels to pictures during the presentation

Right: A PDF presentation is ideal for sending a series of images. From the PDF Presentation dialogue, you can add or remove files before selecting the Presentation option



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Exporting *to other file formats*

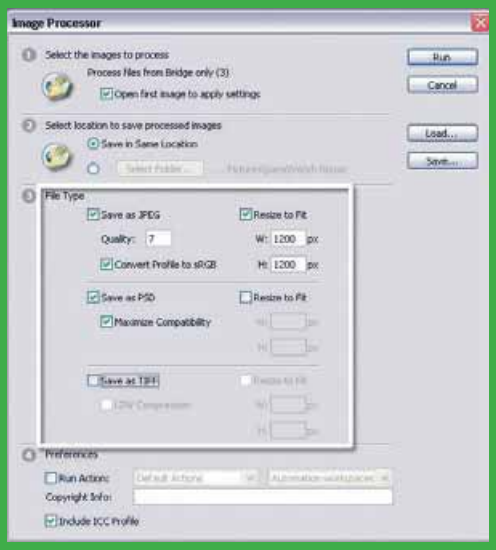
AUTOMATED CONVERSIONS USING THE IMAGE PROCESSOR

Back when CS was first released, Adobe evangelist Russell Brown developed the Image Processor to demonstrate the power of the scripting engine within Photoshop and at the same time to provide a very handy image conversion utility. Now the Image Processor is a permanent part of both Bridge and Photoshop's feature lineup.

The utility is designed to quickly convert a range of RAW files into JPEG, PSD and TIFF versions. There is an option to manually adjust the RAW conversion settings for the first file and then apply these settings to the rest of the images. The utility can also rename, run a pre-saved action, add copyright details and size at the same time as converting between formats, providing a fast and efficient workflow for processing images that have been captured in a single session.

After processing, the files are stored in three separate folders on your hard drive. To use the utility, select your raw files from inside Bridge and then choose **Tools > Photoshop > Image Processor**. Set the location where processed files are to be saved, the file type and any associated settings (size, compression, colour profile), add in copyright details and then choose any actions to apply to the files.

Left: The copies created by the Image Processor are conveniently stored in separate folders labelled with their file type.



Right: The Image Processor script generates up to three different file format versions of the original Raw file automatically.

PRINTING FROM RAW FILES

PRODUCING A CONTACT SHEET

The Contact Sheet option in Photoshop can be used from Bridge to print 'proof' sheets of raw files. Thumbnails are multi-selected from the Bridge workspace before accessing the utility via **Tools > Photoshop**. The options contained in the Contact Sheet dialogue allow you to select the number of columns of image thumbnails per page and the content of the text labels that are added. The page size and orientation can also be chosen via Page Setup. Pressing the OK button instructs Photoshop to open each image in turn, resize it and then position it in a new document ready for printing.

PICTURE PACKAGE

The multi image printing idea is extended via the Picture Package utility, also located under the **Tools > Photoshop** menu in Bridge. With this, you have the option of laying out several images of different sizes on a single page. Alternatively you can produce several copies of the same photo in a range of template designs. Use this to put together multi-print pages that are destined for cutting up and presenting separately.

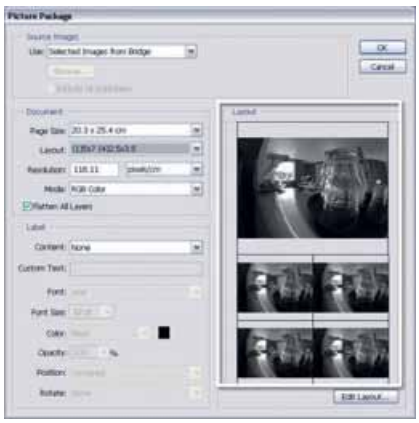
PRINTING PHOTOS WITHOUT CONVERSION

Unfortunately Bridge doesn't contain a straight print option that allows individual RAW files to be printed from the workspace. But the Smart Object technology released in Photoshop CS2 provides a neat workaround. Smart Objects are a way of embedding the original file within a special layer in a Photoshop document. Start by finding out the exact pixel dimensions of the RAW file. Switch to Photoshop and create a new document using these dimensions in the New Document dialogue.

Next jump back to Bridge and click onto the thumbnail of the RAW file. Now Select **File > Place > In Photoshop**.

Bridge opens Photoshop then displays the RAW file inside the Adobe Camera Raw dialogue. Make changes, but you will be able to readjust the RAW settings later. Click the Save button and then Enter/Return to place the RAW file into the Photoshop document. Notice in the layers palette that the RAW picture has be placed as a special Smart Object layer. The RAW file is now embedded into the Photoshop document. To make changes to the RAW settings, double click on the layer's thumbnail. This action displays ACR allowing you to tweak the RAW settings. Printing can now be handled via **File > Print with Preview**.

Note: Full RAW workflow products like Lightroom and Aperture do contain direct print options.



Above: As well as producing contact sheets Raw files can be collated into other multi-print designs using the Picture Package feature also located in the Tools > Photoshop

Below: The feature automatically lists the photos selected in Bridge in the Contact Sheet dialogue. It is here that you can alter the sheets layout and design before producing the group of thumbnails as a new Photoshop document

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